Better Homes & Gardens®

HOLIDAY crafts®

PRINTABLE PATTERNS

celebrating 50 years

making MAGIC

PROJECTS & TECHNIQUES FROM THE 1970s TO NOW

- ORNAMENTS
- WREATHS
- GIFTS
- GARLANDS
- DECOR

2024 GOLD LEAF TOPPER

1974 CANDLES

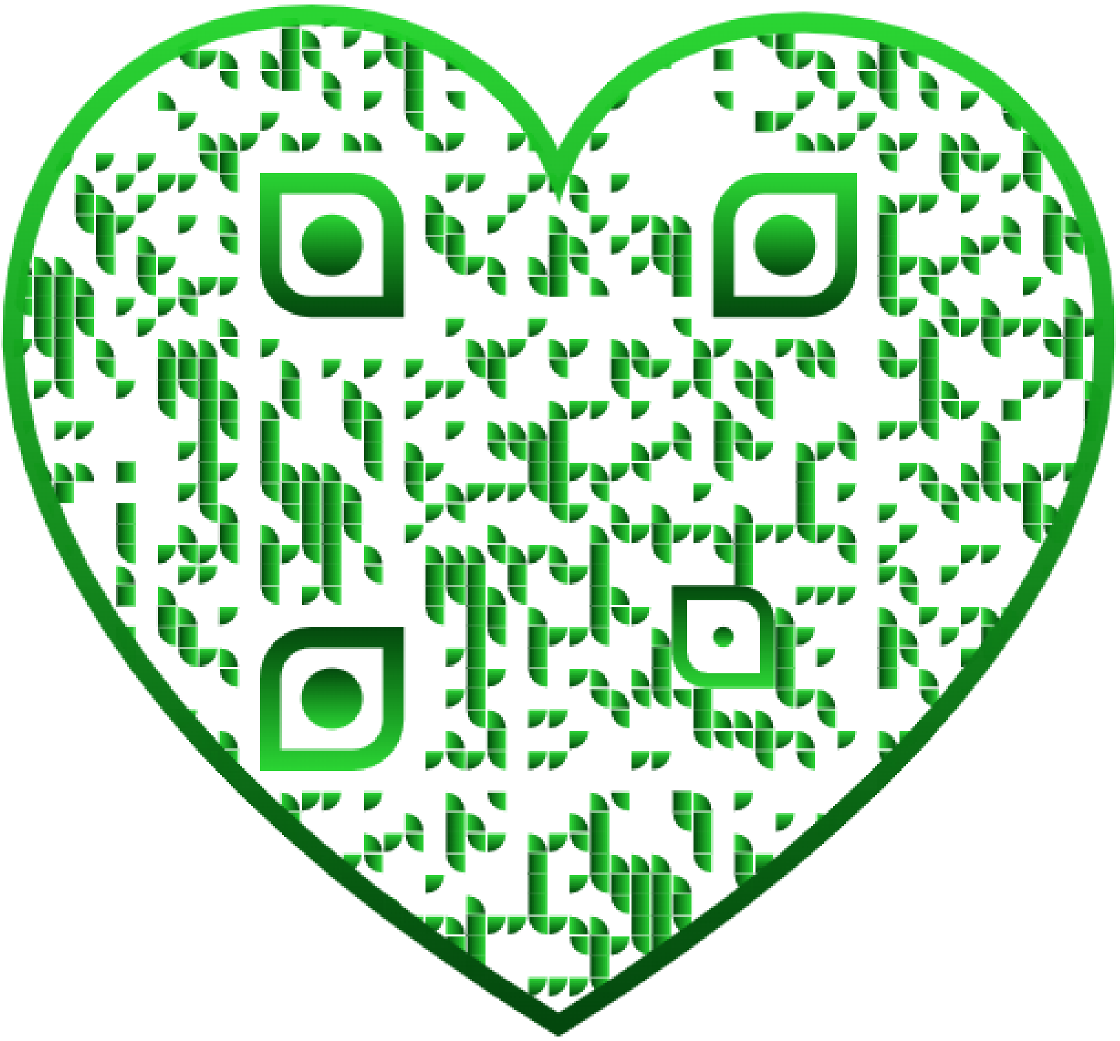
2016 PAPIER-MÂCHÉ ORNAMENTS

2006 GIFT-WRAP TREES

1988 CROCHET STARS

1999 BEADED GARLAND

2025



APQ
shop.com

SPECIAL OFFER

50% OFF
your entire order

valid on digital patterns only
Expires 12/31/2025

PROMO CODE:
HOLIDAYCRAFTS

SWEATER WEATHER

Create a quilt inspired by Norwegian knitted sweaters.
Designer: Tina Lewis. Finished Quilt: 69 1/2 x 85 1/2”

Purchase & Print!

Visit APQShop.com to find more than 350 quilting and sewing patterns.

Buy, download, and print hard-to-find patterns featured in previous issues of *American Patchwork & Quilting*®, *Quilts & More*™, and *Quilt Sampler*®.

MONSTER MASH

PUMPKIN PICKING

FRONT RUNNER: WINTER

SOFT & SPOOKY

WRAPPED IN RIBBONS

HALLOWEEN HOOPLA

HOLIDAY crafts®

Editor NICOLE DEAN
Designer ALISON GAMM
Copy Editor MARTHA COLOFF LONG
Contributing Editor HEIDI PALKOVICH
Contributing Illustrator LIZ GORDON
Contributing Proofreader CARRIE TRUESDELL
Senior Editorial Operations Specialist ASHLEY JACOBS

FOOD
Executive Editor SHELLI MCCONNELL
Senior Content Manager JESSICA SAARI CHRISTENSEN
Senior Editors MADALYN BENDGEN; CAITLYN DIIMIG, RD
Senior Brand Manager, Test Kitchen JULI HALE
Brand Manager, Test Kitchen EMILY NIENHAUS
Culinary Specialist and Test Kitchen Coordinator NICOLE IRWIN
Culinary Specialists BARRETT HEALD, JAELYN LUONG
Senior Food Stylist and Coordinator LAUREN MCANELLY
Senior Food Stylist ANNIE PROBST
Food Stylists HOLLY DREESMAN, SHANNON GOFORTH
Test Kitchen and Food Styling Fellow ASHLEY SANDOVAL

HOME, GARDEN & QUILTING
Executive Editor KATY KIICK CONDON
Senior Editors DORIS BRUNNETTE, NICOLE DEAN, EMILY ELVERU, KRISSA ROSSBUND
Editor ELLA SCHULTE
Better Homes & Gardens Test Garden® Manager SANDRA GERDES

ART
Design Directors STEPHANIE HUNTER, KIMBERLY MORGAN METZ, MICK SCHNEPF
Art Directors EMILY BUTTERWORTH, KRISTIN CLEVELAND, ELIZABETH STUMBO, ANNIE WALDEN
Associate Art Director ALISON GAMM

EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATION
Copy Chief ERIKA BJORKLUND
Senior Copy Editors MADELAINE JEROUSEK-SMITH, MARTHA COLOFF LONG
Copy Editor ELLA FIELD
Senior Manager, Editorial Operations HOLLY PRUETT
Assistant Editorial Business Manager GABRIELLE RENSLOW
Senior Editorial Operations Specialist ASHLEY JACOBS
Editorial Operations Specialist SANDRA JOHNSON
Photography Coordinator JAKE ROUDABUSH
Senior Director, Print Premedia Services DALE TUNENDER
Senior Director, Quality JOSEPH KOHLER
Vice President, Content Studios ALLISON LOWERY
Director, Test Kitchen LYNN BLANCHARD
Studios Content Director GREG LUNA
Photo Studio Set Construction Manager DAVE DECARLO
Senior Stylist and Producer JOSEPH WANEK
Stylists BREANNA GHAZALI, LEXI JUHL
Studios Prop Coordinator HOLLY RAIBIKIS
Premedia Trafficking Supervisor KAYLA STORY
Premedia Imaging Specialist DAVID SWAIN
Associate Director, Premedia Quality Services BEN ANDERSON

CONTRIBUTING FIELD EDITORS
Sarah Alba, Darra Baker, Andrea Caughey, Kimberly Clarke, Jennifer Berno DeCleene, Paige Porter Fischer, Jessica Brinkert Holtam, Lacey Howard, Marni Elyse Katz, Kelly Ryan Kegans, Karin Lidbeck-Brent, Elaine Markoutsas, Tovah Martin, Cathy Still McGowin, Anna Molvik, Lisa Mowry, Eleanor Lynn Nesmith, Heidi Pearson, Karen Reinecke, Margaret Zainey Roux, Khristi S. Zimmeth

FOR EDITORIAL QUESTIONS, EMAIL MEREDITH.PREMIUMPUBLISHING@DOTDASHMDP.COM
OR WRITE US AT *HOLIDAY CRAFTS*,
PREMIUM PUBLISHING,
1716 LOCUST ST., DES MOINES, IA 50309-3023

PREMIUM PUBLISHING
Vice President & General Manager JEREMY BILOON
Vice President & Editor in Chief JILL WAAGE
Vice President, Editorial Operations & Finance GREG KAYKO

Executive Director, Business Development & Partnerships MEGAN PEARLMAN
Associate Director, Business Development & Partnerships NINA REED
Senior Director, Brand Marketing JEAN KENNEDY
Associate Director, Brand Marketing KATHERINE BARNET
Senior Brand Manager GEOFFREY WOHLGAMUTH
Brand Manager MIA RINALDI
Associate Brand Manager GABBY AMELLO

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION
Business Director CASEY RINGHOFER
Senior Business Manager LISA CARLSON

CIRCULATION
Consumer Marketing Manager LYNN BOLINGER

ADVERTISING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Vice President & Head of Sales, Lifestyle TIFFANY EHASZ
tiffany.ehasz@dotdashmdp.com
Executive Director & Food and Beverage Lead DAVID GINSBERG
david.ginsberg@dotdashmdp.com
Executive Director & Home/CPG Lead MARGARET GRAFF
margaret.graff@dotdashmdp.com

ADVERTISING OPERATIONS
1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023
Production Director PATRICK MCGOWAN
Senior Production Manager, Country Home JULEE EVANS
Production Managers APRIL GROSS, TREVI JONES, ASHLEY SCHAUBROECK

DIRECT MEDIA
Executive Director TYLER HUB
tyler.hub@dotdashmdp.com

PEOPLE INC.
President, Lifestyle ALYSIA BORSA
Senior Vice President & Group General Manager MÉLANIE BERLIET

Chief Revenue Officer BRIAN KIGHTLINGER
Vice President, Lifestyle Marketing KRISTIN GUINAN

NEWS MEDIA ALLIANCE

People Inc.

Please Recycle This Magazine

For syndication or international licensing requests, email syndication.generic@dotdashmdp.com.
For reprint and reuse permission, email mmc.permissions@dotdashmdp.com.
PRINTED IN THE USA

table of contents

4 THROUGH THE YEARS
Everything vintage is having a moment. Take a look back at some of our favorite projects and updates.

10 SNOW DAY SCENES
Learn the basics for making Nancy Malay's famous cover snowmen.

14 1970s
Channel your inner groovy with retro crafts from this mod decade.

26 1980s
Classics that never go out of style: cross-stitch, crochet, quilting, and more timeless techniques to enjoy.

38 1990s
Homespun charm and all things country shine in these heartwarming projects.

54 2000s
The new millennium makes way for an explosion of creativity with lots of sparkle and bling.

70 2010s
The rise of the modern maker (and Pinterest) leads to twists on palettes, materials, and upcycling.

84 2020s
Creative escapes and self-care take us into the present, with "handmade" trending more than ever.

94 TECHNIQUES
Embroidery stitch diagrams and instructions for pros and novices.

96 COVER JOURNEY
Our archives reveal a treasure trove of amazing projects, along with some interesting past covers.

Scan this code to access the digital version of our pattern pack.

from the editor

Time is precious and can pass so quickly, especially during the joyous season of the holidays. As we were planning the 2025 issue of *Holiday Crafts*, there were some audible gasps when we realized that this title has been in print for over 50 years. Where did the time go? After a little trip down memory lane and into our archives, we knew these past issues deserved attention.

Start your journey into our *Holiday Crafts* tribute with the 1970s, where the groovy disco era and mod graphics were all the rage. At that time, all of the provided patterns and diagrams were hand-drawn for the magazines (now they're obviously created with computer software). As we move into the 1980s and 1990s, textural projects were hugely popular. My grandmother (the queen of crocheted doilies and tissue-box covers) always declared "crochet" as the lost art, so I'm thrilled to highlight a variety of woven, cross-stitched—and yes, crocheted—ideas in this chapter.

The 21st century brought in projects with poppy colors and lots of sparkle, shine, and faux gemstones. At this time, scrapbooking was having a moment and paper crafts gained momentum. Gradually, this gave way to more rustic and natural materials, even those foraged from the outdoors, with the ever-popular farmhouse movement. Upcycling and using repurposed items in projects was—and still is—a huge trend. And over the past five years, we've gone back to basics in working with our hands, taking a break from screens, and learning something new.

Holiday Crafts has always understood the importance of carrying on age-old arts to new makers, and we took extra steps to make sure all original instructions and patterns were updated for today. We also added something special: Check out our Reimagined Projects, where we give you how-to for the original but also feature re-created designs with new spins.

The best part of crafting is the freedom to make it your own. In fact, we would love to see your creations from this issue! Follow me on Instagram (@nicoleholidayseditor and #50yearsofholidaycrafts) to share photos of your designs with us.

As always, I hope you enjoy the holiday season, happy crafting, and—most important—the memory-making that comes with it.

Nicole Dean

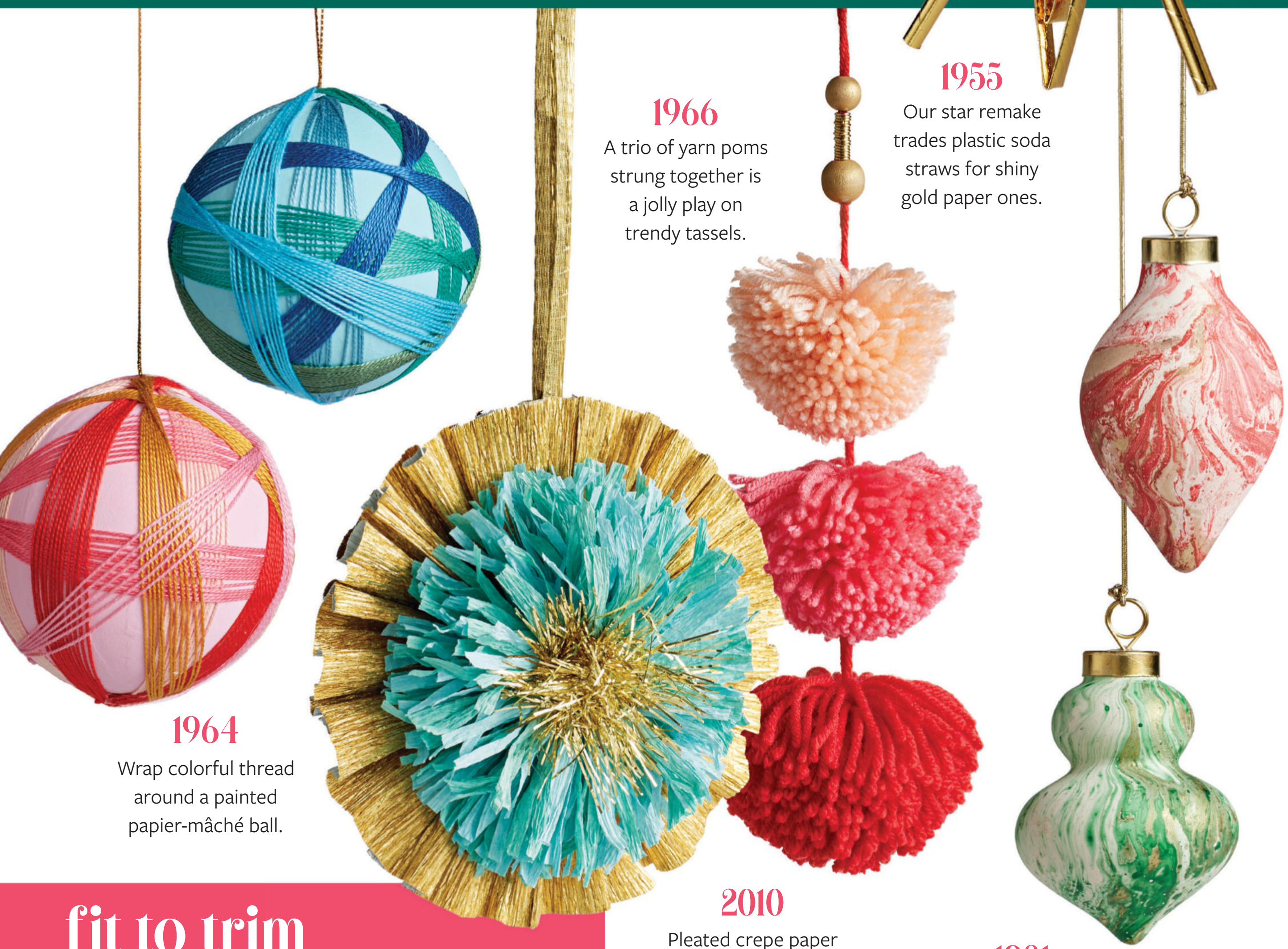
Nicole Dean, Editor

ON THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHER: JACOB FOX STYLIST: DERA BURRESON DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON COVER TREE PROVIDED BY *BALSAMHILL.COM*

THROUGH THE years

Our parent magazine, *Better Homes & Gardens*, has been featuring crafts since its launch in 1922. Take a trip through time with a look back at some of our favorites—all updated and made easy for today's crafters.

PHOTOGRAPHER: **ADAM ALBRIGHT** DESIGNER: **KIM HUTCHISON**



1955

Our star remake trades plastic soda straws for shiny gold paper ones.

1966

A trio of yarn poms strung together is a jolly play on trendy tassels.

1964

Wrap colorful thread around a painted papier-mâché ball.

2010

Pleated crepe paper ornaments also make great gift toppers.

1981

Dunk white ceramic ornaments in a swirl of spray paints and water.

fit to trim

Handmade ornaments are nostalgia bearers. Unpacking them each year is like rediscovering pieces of holiday history. Simple materials—yarn, paint, straws, and paper—bring delight to Christmases future.

handmade wraps & toppers

We dipped into our archives for wrapping ideas that combine a modern graphic look with the charm of something you make yourself.

WOVEN RAFFIA TOPPERS

In 1964 we were a little obsessed with the idea of weaving a grid of ribbon around a gift box. Satin, velvet, paper—we tried them all. This update uses raffia, and we love the texture it adds to this pattern.

STRING ART BOXES

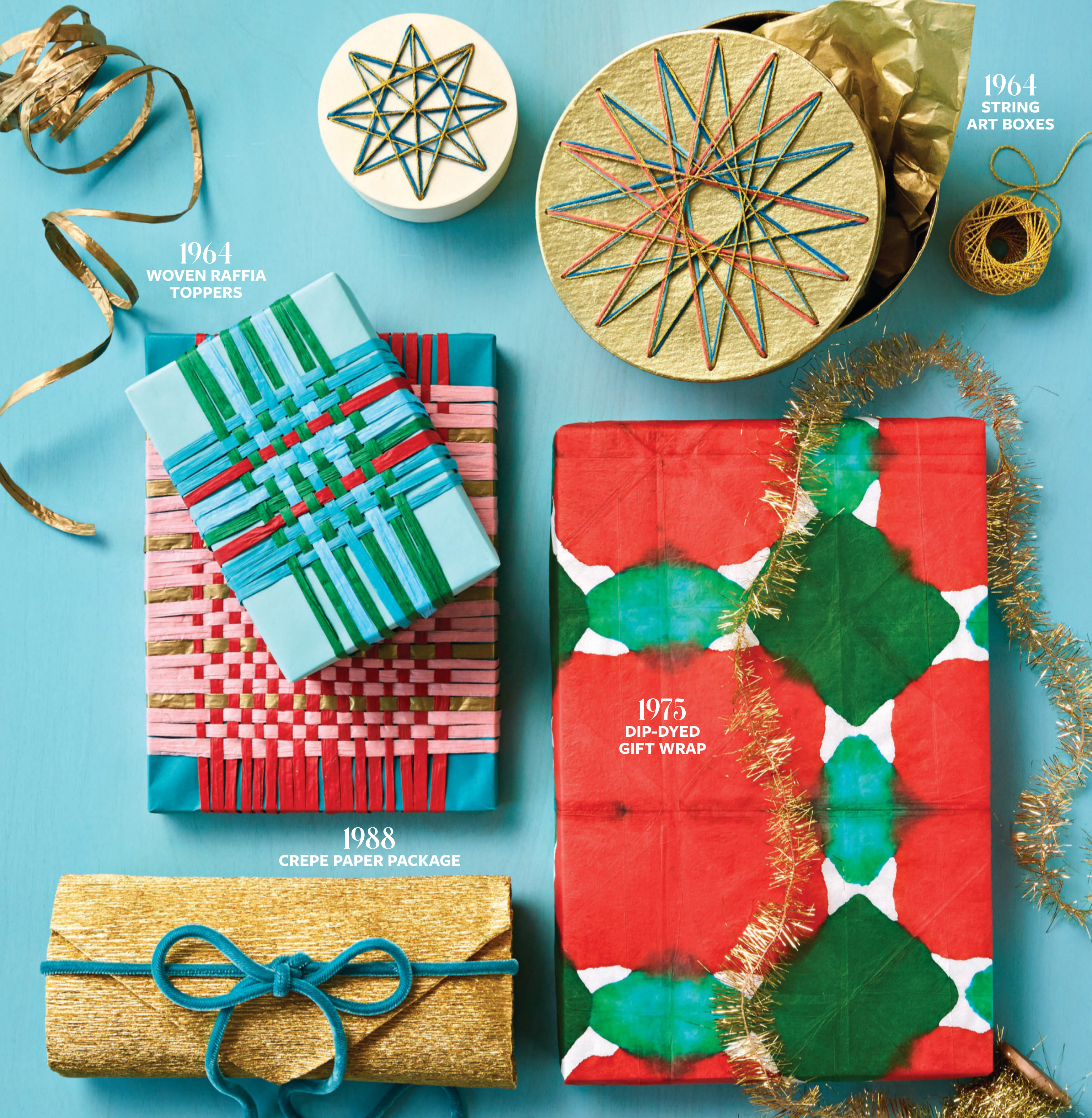
The stuff of ’60s camp projects and wall hangings, string art has made a resurgence. The originals involved nails, but our take is just embroidery floss threaded through holes poked in the lid of a papier-mâché box.

DIP-DYED GIFT WRAP

“Turn ordinary tissue paper into a galaxy of dazzling gift wraps,” we promised in 1975, and it still holds true today. Fold paper into the shapes on *page 9*. Dunk the corners in food coloring, unfold, iron flat, and let dry.

CREPE PAPER PACKAGE

This technique from 1988 works to wrap a soft gift like a scarf. Center gift near the bottom of a crepe paper sheet. Fold long sides to center and roll up. Fold end into triangle. See diagram on *page 9*.



1964
STRING ART BOXES

1964
WOVEN RAFFIA TOPPERS

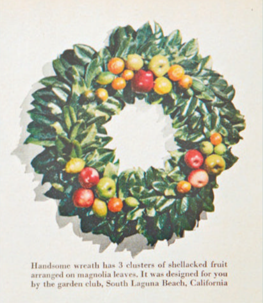
1975
DIP-DYED GIFT WRAP

1988
CREPE PAPER PACKAGE

look back wreaths

Almost every adornment you can imagine has appeared on our wreaths. These classics are worth a second look.

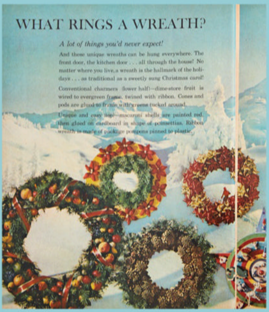
1952



Handsome wreath has 3 clusters of shellacked fruit arranged on magnolia leaves. It was designed for you by the garden club, South Laguna Beach, California

Midcentury bling: clusters of shellacked fruit on a magnolia wreath.

1960



WHAT RINGS A WREATH?

A lot of things you'd never expect!

And these unique wreaths can be hung everywhere. The front door, the kitchen door . . . all through the house! No matter where you live, a wreath is the hallmark of the holidays . . . as traditional as a sweetly sung Christmas carol!

Conventional charmers (lower half)—dime-store fruit is wired to evergreen frame, twined with ribbon. Cones and pods are glued to frame with greens tucked around.

Unique and easy tops—macaroni shells are painted red, then glued on cardboard in shape of poinsettias. Ribbon wreath is made of package pompons pinned to plastic.

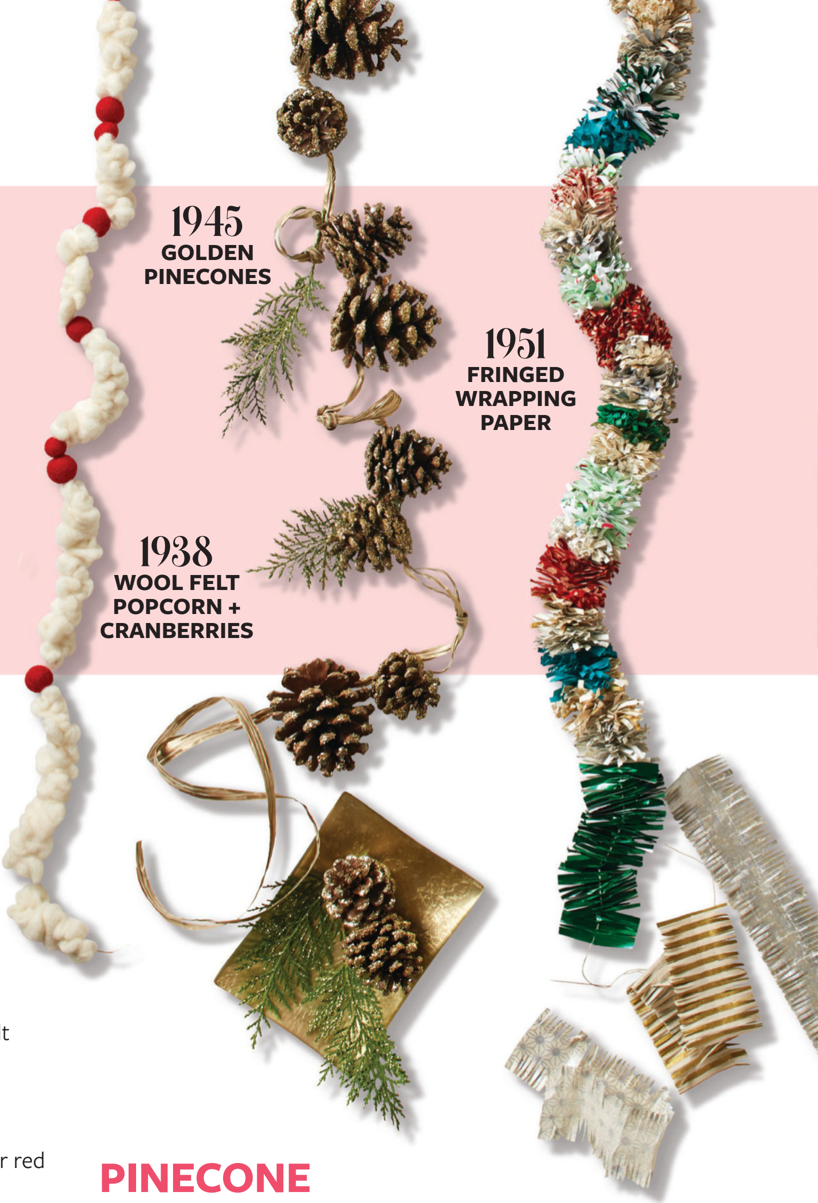
Anything goes in the '60s, including macaroni shells painted poinsettia red.

1993

Carrots, beets, and even a turnip adorn this tribute to the kitchen garden.

crafty garlands

Whimsical handmade garlands reflect favorite craft trends: wool felt, nature finds, and recycled materials.



POPCORN GARLAND

MATERIALS

- ☐ White 100%-wool felt
- ☐ Waxed thread
- ☐ Embroidery needle
- ☐ Boiling water
- ☐ 1- and 1½-centimeter red wool felt pom-poms

Cut multiple 10-inch strips of white felt 1 inch to 2 inches wide. Keep the edges wavy and uneven.

With waxed thread, sew long zigzagging stitches down the center length of the felt, pulling tightly to bunch felt as you go. (The stitches will make bunches uneven.) Repeat on each 10-inch section until you have enough to make desired length.

Drop wool into boiling water and agitate with a spoon for 1 to 2 minutes to shrink. (Only 100%-wool felt will shrink.)

Remove from water and let your "popcorn" dry.

String wool popcorn and red pom-poms on thread, alternating randomly.

PINECONE GARLAND

MATERIALS

- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Sponge brush
- ☐ Pinecones
- ☐ Coarse glass glitter
- ☐ Spray adhesive
- ☐ Cedar or pine sprigs
- ☐ Fine glitter
- ☐ Ribbon

Dab crafts glue on tips of pinecones using brush; roll in coarse glass glitter to give a sugar-dipped look; let dry.

Spray adhesive on sprigs and pinecones, and lightly sprinkle with fine glitter; let dry.

Wrap ribbon around upper third of pinecones. Tie loose knots between pinecones and slip sprigs into knots; tighten.

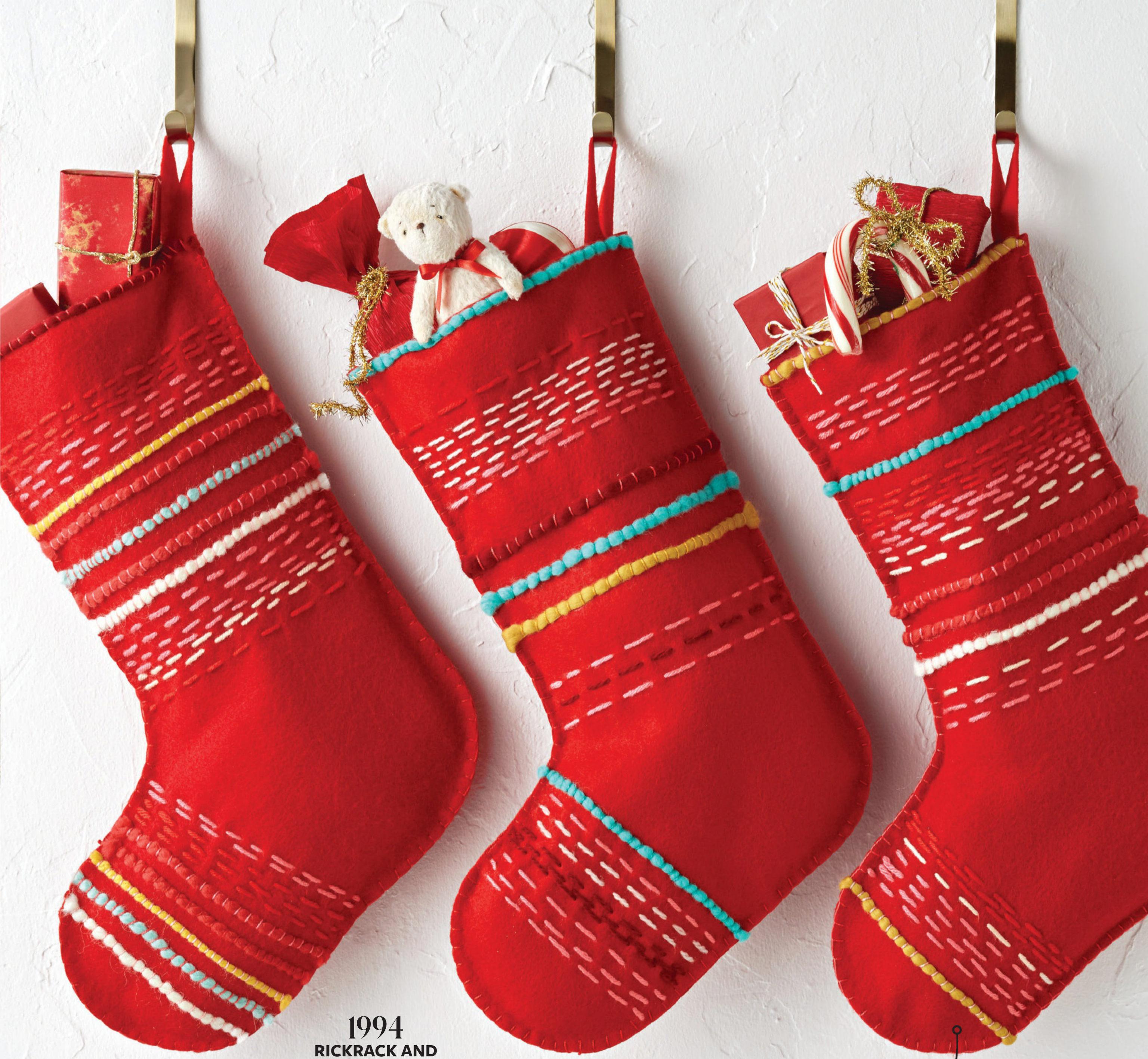
WRAPPING PAPER GARLAND

MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted wrapping papers
- ☐ Fringe scissors
- ☐ Waxed thread
- ☐ Embroidery needle

Cut wrapping papers into long 2-inch-wide strips. Fold in half lengthwise. Fringe open edges using fringe scissors, leaving about ¼ inch along the fold. Unfold. Repeat for all strips.

Using waxed thread and embroidery needle, sew long running stitches down the centers. Gently pull and twist paper down thread to gather sections. Add fringed strips until reaching desired length.



Why we like felt: It doesn't fray, and there's no wrong side or grain to align.

1994
RICKRACK AND TRIM STOCKING

stocking up

We wrote "Stockings made with care will be hung with care year after year" when we shared this folk art creation, *left*. Still true! Our new version makes handcrafting easier with simple sewing and fabric glue. Go to *page 94* to see various embroidery stitches made with yarn to add your own designs.

Instructions

MEDALLION PAPER FAN ORNAMENT

shown on *page 4*

MATERIALS

☐ Metallic crepe paper
☐ Two colors of 140- to 180-gram crepe paper (try *cartefini.com*)
☐ Metallic tinsel garland
☐ Fringe scissors

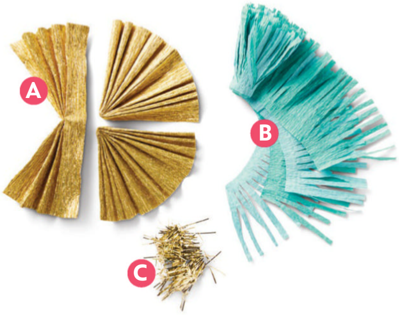
Cut out three 7×7-inch pieces of metallic crepe paper. Accordion-fold each with ½-inch pleats.

Fold each accordion in half and glue inside pleats together to form a fan. Glue the sides of all three fans together to form a medallion **(A).**

Cut four 3×10-inch strips of crepe paper, two of each color. Stack, alternating colors, and smooth out wrinkles. Use fringe scissors to fringe one of the long edges of the stack. Roll **(B),** and glue unfringed end to medallion, flattening fringe.

Gather a 1½-inch piece of tinsel garland into a ball **(C).** Glue to center.

Punch a hole between medallion folds and hang with string.



YARN POM-POM ORNAMENT

shown on *page 4*

MATERIALS

☐ 6 dowels: 2 each of 1½-inch, 1-inch, ¾-inch diameter
☐ 3 colors of yarn
☐ Wood beads and jump rings

Lay the 1½-inch dowels side by side; wrap one color of yarn around both dowels until yarn covers a 2-inch width. The more yarn used, the thicker your pom-poms.

Cut a 3-foot string of matching yarn; slide string between the two dowels on either side of wrapped yarn, pulling ends even. Tie around the wrapped yarn. Slide yarn off the dowels; tightly knot string.

Cut apart the loops on both ends to create a floppy pom-pom; trim ends as needed. Knot the string ends 1½ inches from pom-pom; set aside. Repeat with 1-inch and then ¾-inch dowels, using the string of yarn from the first pom-pom to tie off the second two, making a chain of three pom-poms.

If desired, tie on wood beads or jump rings (metallic rings from the jewelry-making aisle) above top pom-pom.

MARBLEIZED ORNAMENT

shown on *page 4*

MATERIALS

☐ Bucket
☐ Water
☐ Painters tape
☐ White ceramic ornaments
☐ Up to 4 colors of spray paint (include one metallic)
☐ Protective gloves
☐ Stirring stick
☐ Clear acrylic spray

Work in well-ventilated area and cover surfaces with newspapers. Fill bucket with water to within 2 inches of rim.

Tape around each ornament's metal cap.

Holding paint cans 8 inches from water, spray each color onto water at a 45-degree angle for 4 to 5 seconds. Overlap colors. Gently stir to achieve desired swirls.

Wearing gloves, hold ornament by taped metal cap and immerse ornament gently into the bucket, rotating slowly through the surface paint rather than dunking it straight in. If paint forms a skin on top of water, stir gently with a stirring stick; carefully remove ornament and hang to dry.

Repeat steps for each ornament, adding more paint as needed. Clean paint away from water surface with the stirring stick.

Spray ornaments with acrylic sealer and remove tape from the cap.

STRING-WRAPPED ORNAMENT

shown on *page 4*

MATERIALS

☐ Round papier-mâché ornament
☐ Crafts paint and brushes
☐ Assorted cotton embroidery floss
☐ Fast-dry clear crafts glue

Paint ornament with crafts paint; let dry.

Secure one end of floss to bottom of ornament with a dot of glue.

Wrap floss around the ball, meeting at starting point. Repeat eight to 10 times, slightly shifting revolutions each time. The floss should form a twist at the top and bottom of the wrapped ball. Finish by securing with a dot of glue.

Repeat with other colors, creating a random geometric prism pattern, covering as much of the ornament as desired.

STRAW ORNAMENT

shown on *page 4*

MATERIALS

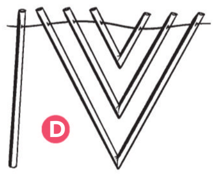
☐ Gold paper straws (we used Spritz from Target)
☐ Bone folder
☐ Embroidery needle
☐ Waxed thread
☐ Crafts glue

Cut straws so you have six each of these lengths: 7½-inch, 6-inch, 4-inch, 3¾-inch.

Using bone folder, flatten all straws except the 4-inch. Fold flat straws in half, creasing with bone folder.

Using needle and thread, stitch through straws ¼ inch from one end in this order: 4-inch, 7½-inch, 6-inch, and 3½-inch.

Fold over the loose end of each of the last three straws you've strung, and run the needle through them in reverse order **(D).** This forms one point of a snowflake.



Using the same string, repeat five times, being certain to include one straight 4-inch straw between each group of points.

When the snowflake is loosely formed, draw the thread tight and knot. Apply glue to the snowflake's center on both sides. (Lay it on waxed paper to dry.)

WOVEN RAFFIA TOPPERS

shown on *page 5*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted paper raffia ribbons
- ☐ Double-sided tape
- ☐ Wrapped gift box

Tape the end of ribbon to back of wrapped box, changing colors if desired. Neatly wind around and around box until desired width is reached. Tape the loose end at the back. Wrapped ribbons should touch but not overlap. This will be the warp of your weaving.

Cut pieces of ribbon long enough to wrap once around your box. These will be the weft of your weaving. Weave a ribbon through the wrap, alternating the over/under pattern between rows and leaving ends loose for now. When you're satisfied with the number and placement of weft rows, wrap ends of all ribbons around box and tape to bottom.

STRING ART BOXES

shown on *page 5*

MATERIALS

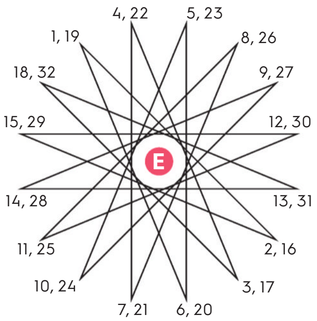
- ☐ Round papier-mâché or wooden crafts box
- ☐ Paint (optional)
- ☐ Embroidery needle or brad nail
- ☐ Assorted embroidery floss
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crafts glue

Paint box, if desired.

Use needle or brad to poke 16 evenly spaced holes in lid about ¼ inch from the edge.

Starting from back of lid, follow pattern **(E)** and pull floss up through hole 1 and down through hole 2. Pull floss up through hole 3 and down through hole 4. Repeat around circle following our diagram or making your own design.

If desired, cut cardstock to size of the interior of the lid and attach with glue to cover backing.



DIP-DYED GIFT WRAP

shown on *page 5*

MATERIALS

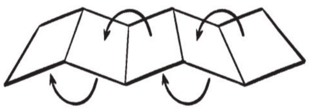
- ☐ Uncoated white or ivory tissue paper sheets
- ☐ Protective gloves
- ☐ Food coloring (1–2 oz. of each color)
- ☐ Small bowls
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Iron

Fold tissue paper sheet into even accordion pleats, then into one of the two folds shown below.

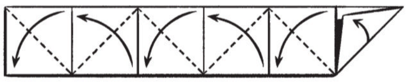
Wearing gloves, squeeze each food coloring into a separate bowl. Dip a corner or edge of paper into dye. Pinch tightly to stop color from bleeding. Blot with paper towels.

Repeat with different colors until you achieve the look you want.

Carefully unfold, lay between two dry sheets of tissue paper, and press with warm iron.



SQUARE FOLD



TRIANGULAR FOLD

CREPE PAPER PACKAGE

shown on *page 5*

MATERIALS

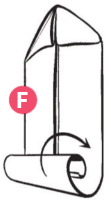
- ☐ Sheet of crepe paper
- ☐ Ribbon
- ☐ Glue (optional)

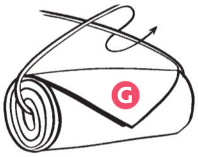
Orient a sheet of crepe paper vertically, and place gift at the bottom middle.

Fold the sides of the paper over the gift's edges, then fold a triangle at the top of the paper **(F)**.

Place a length of ribbon triple the width of paper across the gift, letting loose ends hang free.

Roll up the package from the bottom, and tie the ribbon ends across the point in a single or double bow **(G)**. Use a dot of glue under the point, if desired.





STOCKING UP

shown on *page 7*

MATERIALS (for one stocking)

- ☐ ¾ yard of felt (body)
- ☐ Lightweight fusible interfacing
- ☐ Yarns in various colors and weights

Enlarge one Stocking Surprise pattern in *Pattern Pack*. Trace onto white paper; cut out. Fold felt in half crosswise. Pin pattern to felt; cut out shape through both layers.

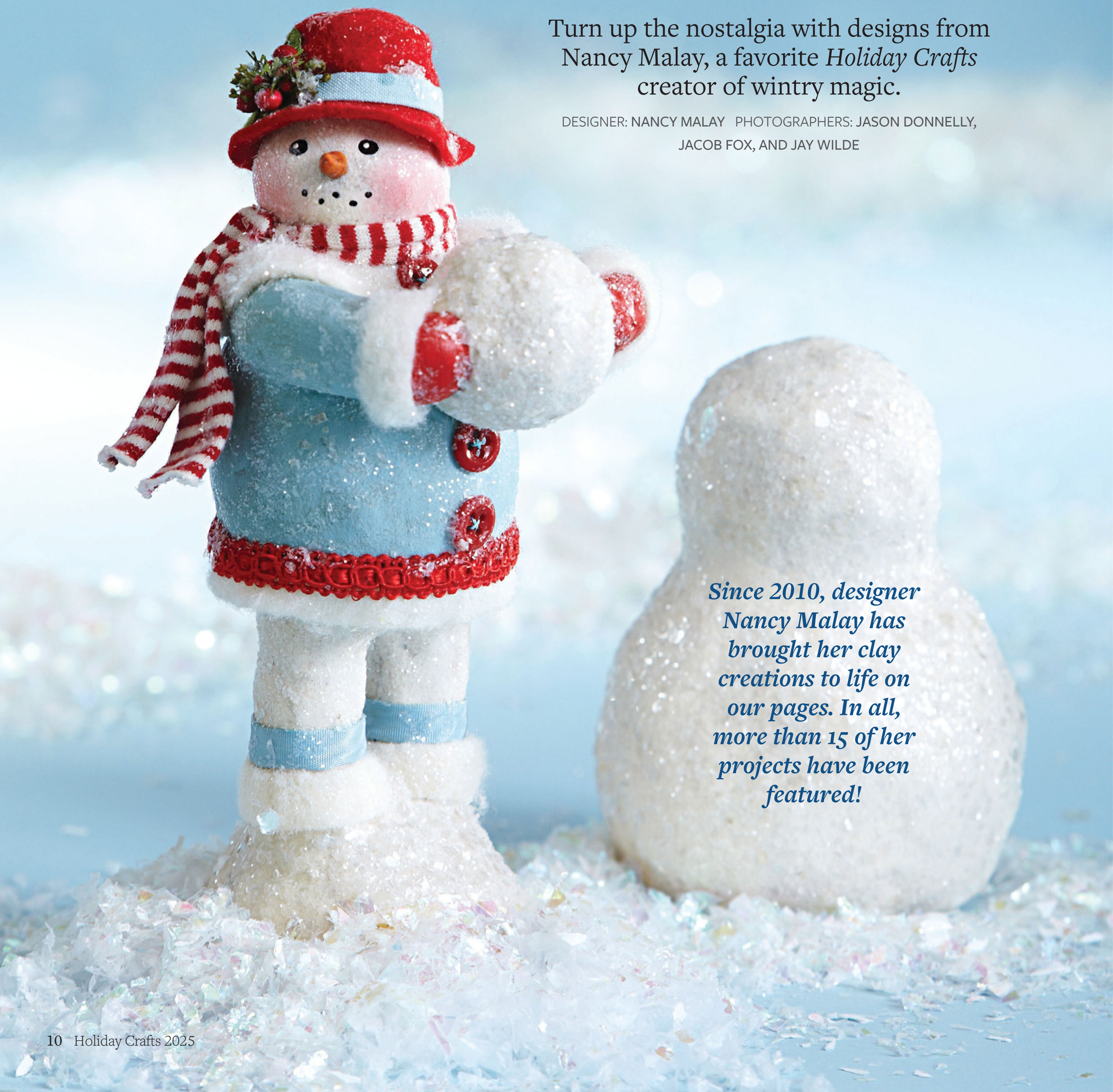
Using the felt shapes as patterns, trace and cut slightly smaller stocking shapes from fusible interfacing. Following manufacturer's instructions, press interfacing onto back of each stocking shape. Embellish the front of the stocking, if desired, with various yarns as show on *page 7*.

Pin together stocking front and back with right sides together. Sew together, leaving top edge open. Clip seam allowances at curves. Turn stocking right side out; press.

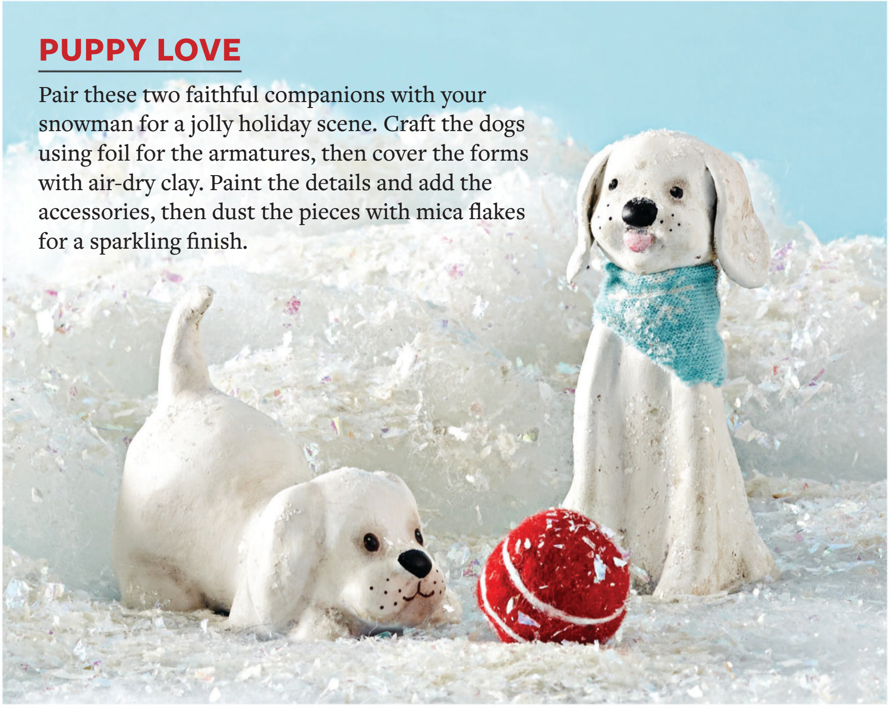
Snow Day SCENES

Turn up the nostalgia with designs from Nancy Malay, a favorite *Holiday Crafts* creator of wintry magic.

DESIGNER: **NANCY MALAY** PHOTOGRAPHERS: **JASON DONNELLY, JACOB FOX, AND JAY WILDE**

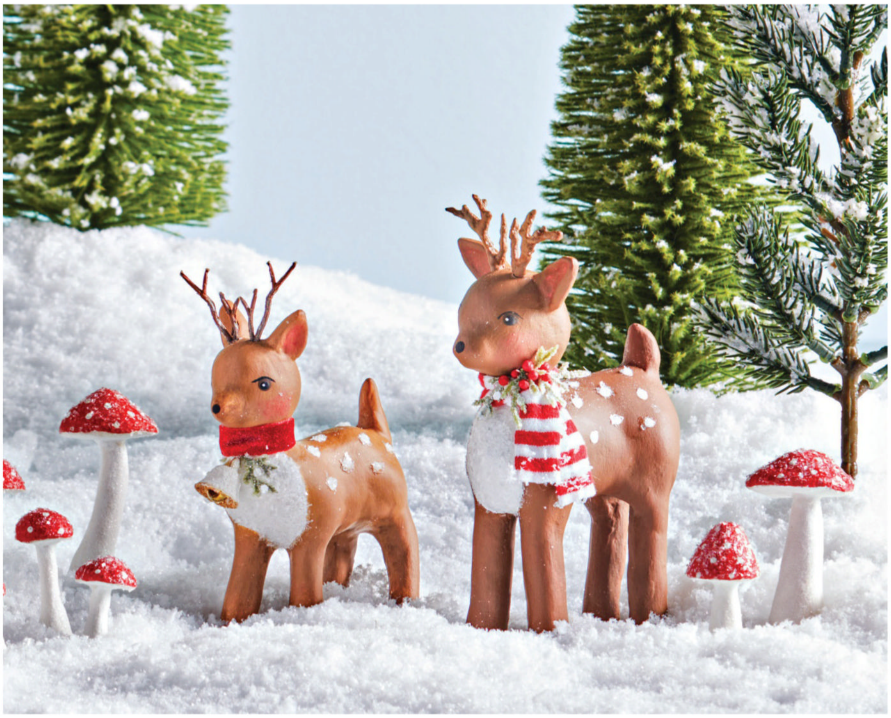


Since 2010, designer Nancy Malay has brought her clay creations to life on our pages. In all, more than 15 of her projects have been featured!



PUPPY LOVE

Pair these two faithful companions with your snowman for a jolly holiday scene. Craft the dogs using foil for the armatures, then cover the forms with air-dry clay. Paint the details and add the accessories, then dust the pieces with mica flakes for a sparkling finish.



SNOW DAY SNOWMAN

What's a frosty friend to do after a snowfall? Build a buddy, of course! This cool fellow is hard at work rolling snowballs and stacking them up. Use our step-by-step photos to construct this snowman from foam balls and air-dry clay, then embellish with a felt hat, faux-fur trim, and little red buttons.

REINDEER GAMES

Watch for footprints in a snow-dusted meadow, where sweet wildlife comes out to play. Form each reindeer with air-dry clay over a base of foam balls and aluminum foil assembled with toothpicks and glue. Add paint plus a few embellishments to bring them to life. Red-capped mushrooms add festive flora. Purchase miniature trees and plenty of artificial snow to set the scene.

cover star

The famous snowman has graced our cover eight times, sometimes with arctic pals.

Better Homes & Gardens
HOLIDAY crafts
CREATE MAGIC
97 PROJECTS FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL
2023

Better Homes & Gardens
HOLIDAY crafts
create & celebrate
87 PROJECTS FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL
2022

Better Homes & Gardens
HOLIDAY Crafts
78 FESTIVE PROJECTS
2019

Better Homes & Gardens
HOLIDAY Crafts
joy
87 FESTIVE PROJECTS

SNOW DAY SNOWMAN

shown on *page 10*

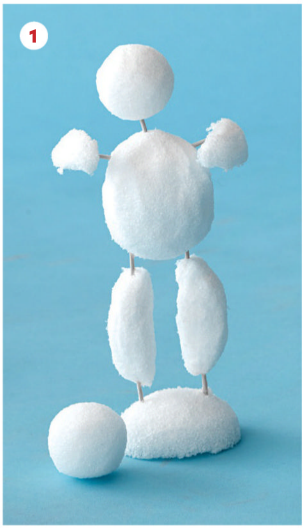
MATERIALS

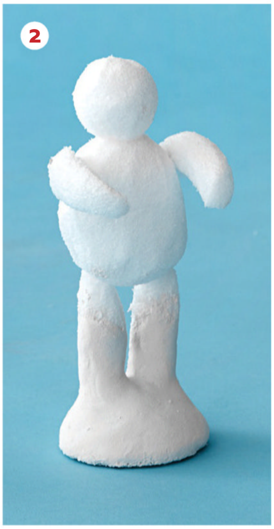
- ☐ Five 2½-inch-diameter foam balls
- ☐ 2-inch-diameter foam ball
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Serrated knife
- ☐ 1½-inch-diameter foam ball
- ☐ 4-inch-diameter foam ball
- ☐ 8-ounce package of air-dry clay (such as Creative Paperclay)
- ☐ Fine-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Acrylic paints: off-white, light blue, red, black, orange, pink, brown
- ☐ Artists brushes
- ☐ Clear acrylic spray finish: matte
- ☐ Water-soluble marking pen
- ☐ Scrap of off-white faux-fur fabric
- ☐ 6-inch square of red felt
- ☐ Scrap of light blue fabric
- ☐ Small artificial greenery and berries
- ☐ Scrap of striped knit fabric
- ☐ ¾ yard of red trim
- ☐ Fabric glue (such as Fabri-Tac)
- ☐ Three small buttons
- ☐ Decoupage medium (such as Mod Podge)
- ☐ Mica flakes

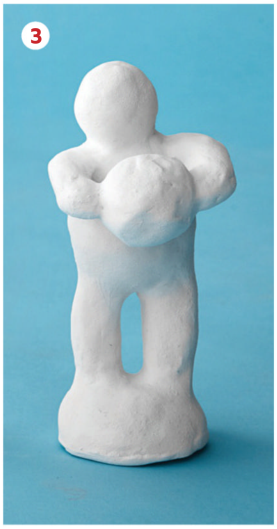
MAKE THE ARMATURES

Finger-press a 2½-inch-diameter foam ball into an egg shape for the torso. Finger-press 2-inch-diameter foam ball to desired head size. Place crafts glue on bottom of head and on each end of a toothpick; push half of toothpick into bottom of head and the other half into top of torso. Press together tightly.

For arms, use a serrated knife to cut a 2½-inch-diameter foam ball in half. Press each half into a log shape for an arm. Place glue on top inner side of an arm and onto both ends of a toothpick. Push one end of toothpick into torso at shoulder area, leaving ½ inch of toothpick exposed. Push top of arm onto exposed toothpick (see **Photo 1,** *above*). Repeat with remaining arm, pushing it onto a toothpick in the other shoulder.


1


2


3

For legs, cut a 2½-inch-diameter foam ball in half. Shape each piece into a log shape. Glue toothpicks and legs as directed for arms, attaching legs at bottom of torso (see **Photo 1**).

For base, cut a 2½-inch-diameter foam ball in half. Press down on curved edge of one half; save other half of ball for another use. Add glue to one end of a toothpick and insert into bottom of a leg; repeat for other leg. Add glue to exposed ends of leg toothpicks; push toothpicks into curved portion of base (see **Photo 1**). Let armature dry overnight.

For snowball, hand-press a 1½-inch-diameter foam ball so it is a little uneven in shape. Place ball between snowman arms at hands and stick glued toothpicks all the way through the hands and into the snowball to hold it in place.

To make snowballs for in-progress snowman, hand-press the 4-inch-diameter foam ball and the remaining 2½-inch-diameter foam ball so each is a bit misshapen. Place glue on the bottom of the small ball and on the top of the large ball. Add glue to both ends of a toothpick and push half of the toothpick into the bottom of the small ball and the other half into the top of the large ball. Press together tightly.

COVER ARMATURES WITH CLAY

Following manufacturer's instructions, prepare a small handful of air-dry clay. Leaving base bottom uncovered, apply a thin layer of clay to base and up the legs, dipping your fingers in water and smoothing clay (see **Photo 2,** *above*). Make sure clay fits tightly against foam. Work clay up the snowman, covering the armature (see **Photo 3,** *above*). Smooth any gaps or seams with moistened fingertips. Form and shape ends of arms to look like mittens. Add clay to in-progress snowman in the same manner. Let snowman and snowballs set until completely dry. Add clay to base bottom; let dry.

Add more clay to snowman and snowballs to fill any small cracks, if needed. Roll a pea-size ball of clay for nose. Place it on the face, blending edges with moistened fingertips until smooth. Let dry overnight.

PAINT THE SNOWMAN AND SNOWBALLS

Lightly sand snowman with fine-grit sandpaper to remove imperfections. Wipe grit from snowman using a soft cloth. Sand again and remove grit.

Paint snowman and snowballs off-white. Paint coat area of snowman using light blue. Paint mittens using red. Let dry. Lightly sand the snowman and snowballs, then apply second coats of off-white, light blue, and red. Dip brush handle tip in black paint to make dots for eyes. After eyes are dry, dip a toothpick in off-white paint and dot each eye with a highlight. Dip a small brush handle tip in black paint to make dots for mouth. Paint nose using orange. Dry-brush cheeks using pink paint.

To create an antiqued appearance, mix brown paint with water until paint is the consistency of ink. Paint snowman using the diluted paint. Wipe off excess with a paper towel until desired look is achieved; let dry. Spray snowman using several coats of clear acrylic spray finish, allowing finish to dry after each coat.

DRESS THE SNOWMAN

Trace the patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper and cut out. Using a water-soluble marking pen, trace collar onto off-white faux-fur fabric; trace hatband, hat crown, and hat brim onto red felt. Cut out pieces. Glue collar around the snowman's neck. Glue a strip of faux fur around snowman for bottom of coat, trimming any excess and matching ends where fabric meets. Glue a short strip of faux fur around each arm for coat sleeve trim and around each ankle with fabric glue.

With right sides together, hand-sew together the short ends of the hatband using small, tight stitches. With right sides together, hand-sew the hat crown to the band and then the band to the brim. Place fabric glue inside hat and attach to snowman's head. Cut a piece of light blue fabric twice the desired width for hatband. Fold the strip in half lengthwise and glue strip between the crown and brim. Glue small greenery and berries to hatband.

Cut a 2½×7-inch strip from striped knit fabric for scarf. Tie scarf around snowman's neck; glue in place.

Glue red trim above faux-fur fabric at bottom of coat. Attach small strips of light blue fabric around each ankle above the faux-fur trim using fabric glue.

Use a pencil to make three dots down front of body. Add glue to backs of buttons and press one firmly to each dot.

FINISH WITH MICA FLAKES

Brush decoupage medium over snowman, leaving blue coat and red mittens uncovered. Sprinkle with mica flakes. Brush decoupage medium over snowballs. Sprinkle with mica flakes.

Brush decoupage medium randomly over coat and mittens. Sprinkle with mica flakes.

Head to *BHG.com/SnowDayFriends* for craft instructions to the snowman's friends.

© Eclectic Products LLC 2025

SANTA KNOWS...

INSPIRE, CREATE, SHARE, LOVE!

Eclectic Products are designed to allow a little MAGIC to happen with everything you create. Our quality adhesives and stains provide the perfect tools to experience the kind of Christmas everyone will long remember.

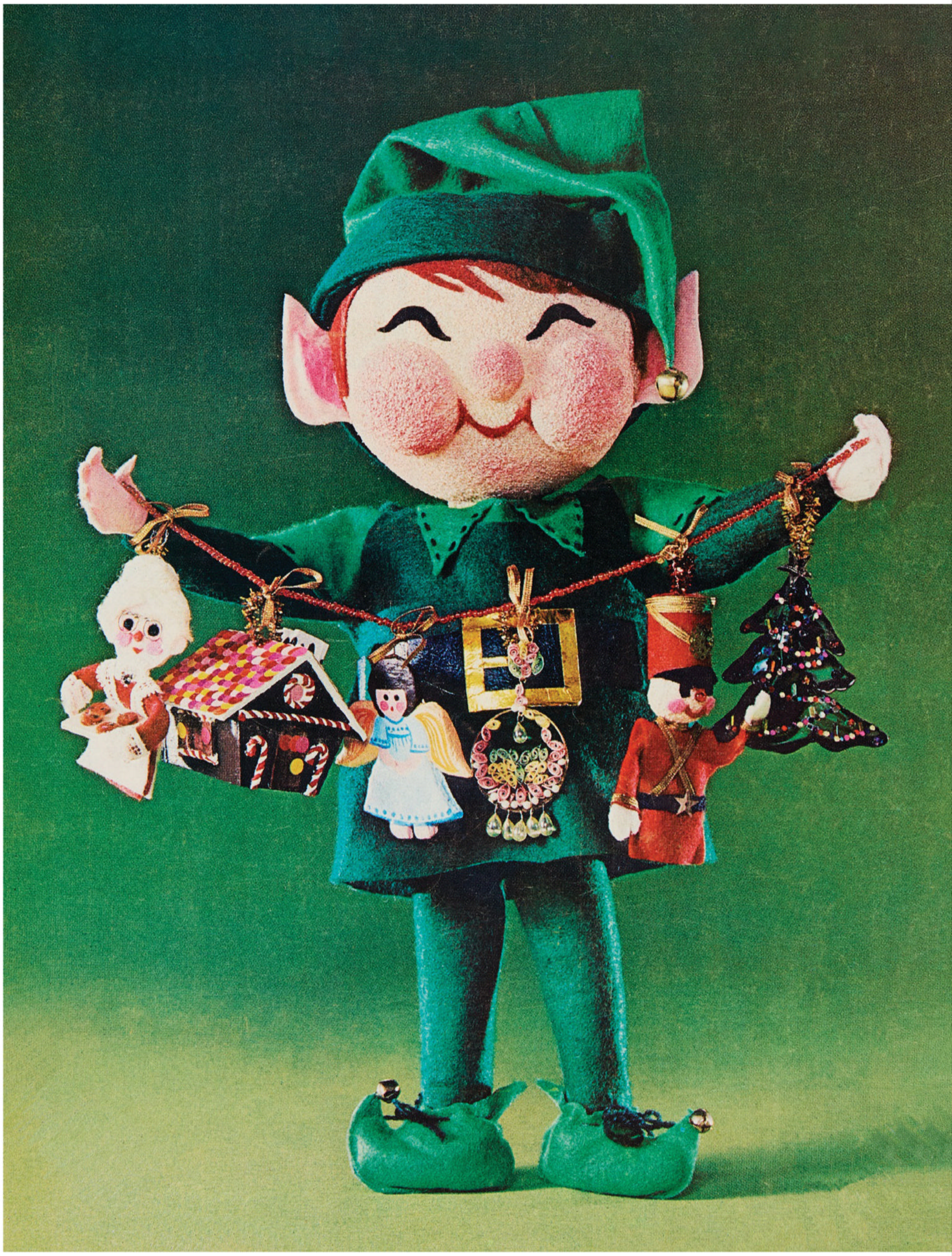
ACCEPT. NO. SUBSTITUTES.

eclecticproducts.com

welcome
home
welcome
POSNER FAMILY
TREE FARM
Christmas
st. nicholas
NORTH POLE
E6000
REPOSITIONABLE GLUE
EXTREME TACK
UNICORN SPiT
GEL STAIN
CONCENTRATED
TINTURA DE GEL
E6000
PREMIUM
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH CONTACT ADHESIVE
Candy Canes

1970s

Fire up the time machine! Channel the nostalgia and creativity of the 1970s with this collection of groovy retro crafts. Inspired by the bold patterns and materials of the decade, these projects combine classic techniques with a fresh twist.



cover star

Better Homes and Gardens

1974

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

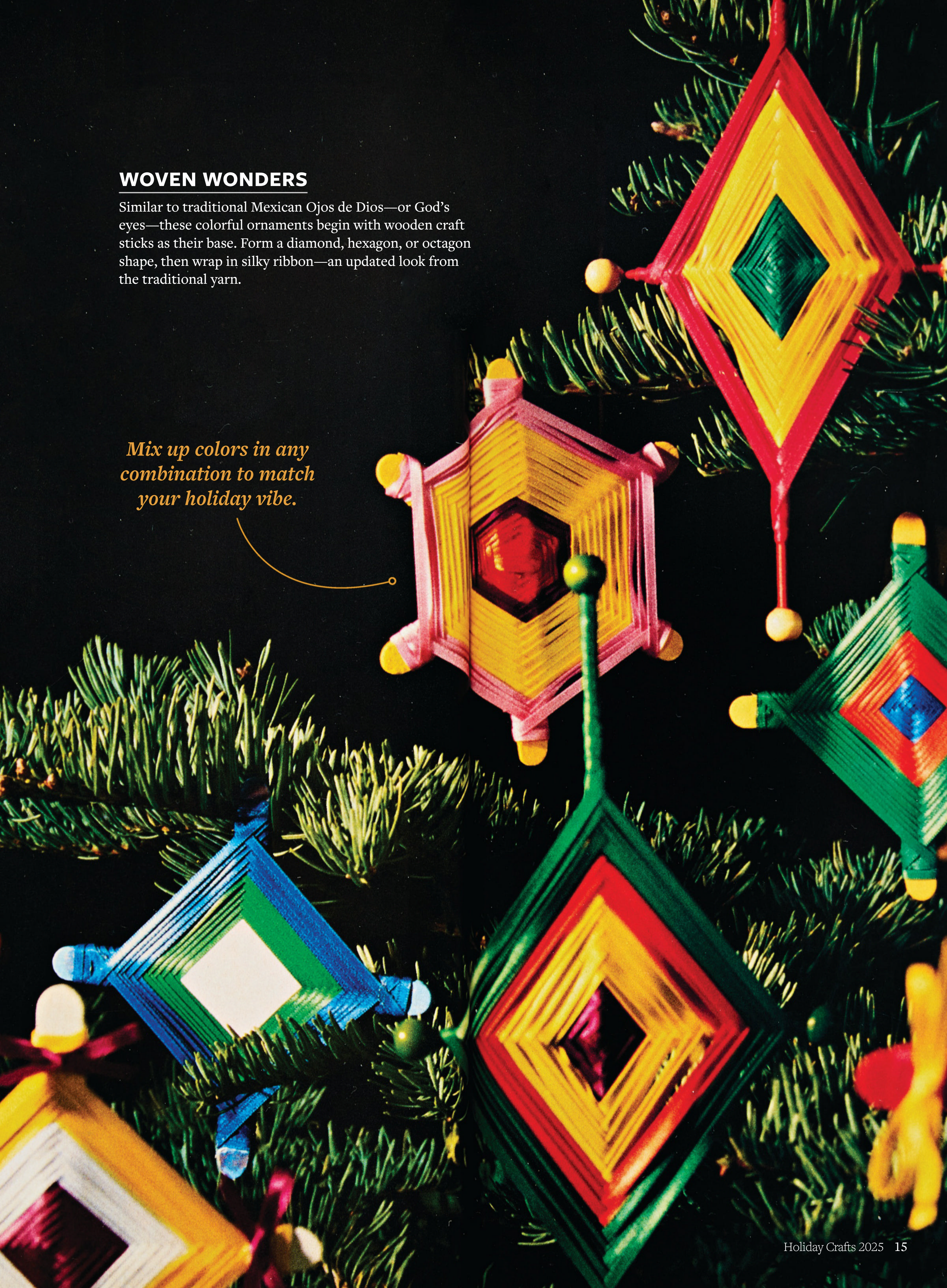
MAKING THINGS FROM PAPER, WOOD, WAX, PLASTIC, FABRIC, ETC.

JOLLY LITTLE HELPER

With a painted foam head, felt outfit, and signature pointy hat and shoes, this sprightly little elf is ready to share Christmas cheer! Customize his colors as you wish, and add tiny trims for extra merry charm.

WOVEN WONDERS

Similar to traditional Mexican Ojos de Dios—or God's eyes—these colorful ornaments begin with wooden craft sticks as their base. Form a diamond, hexagon, or octagon shape, then wrap in silky ribbon—an updated look from the traditional yarn.



Mix up colors in any combination to match your holiday vibe.

Pineapples have long been seen as a symbol of hospitality and celebration.

TROPICAL WELCOME

This dazzling pineapple centerpiece starts with a simple foam egg form. The exterior texture comes from uncooked pasta wheels accented with shimmering green beads. A crown of artificial palm fronds completes the look, adding island charm to any tablescape.

STUFFED STATEMENT

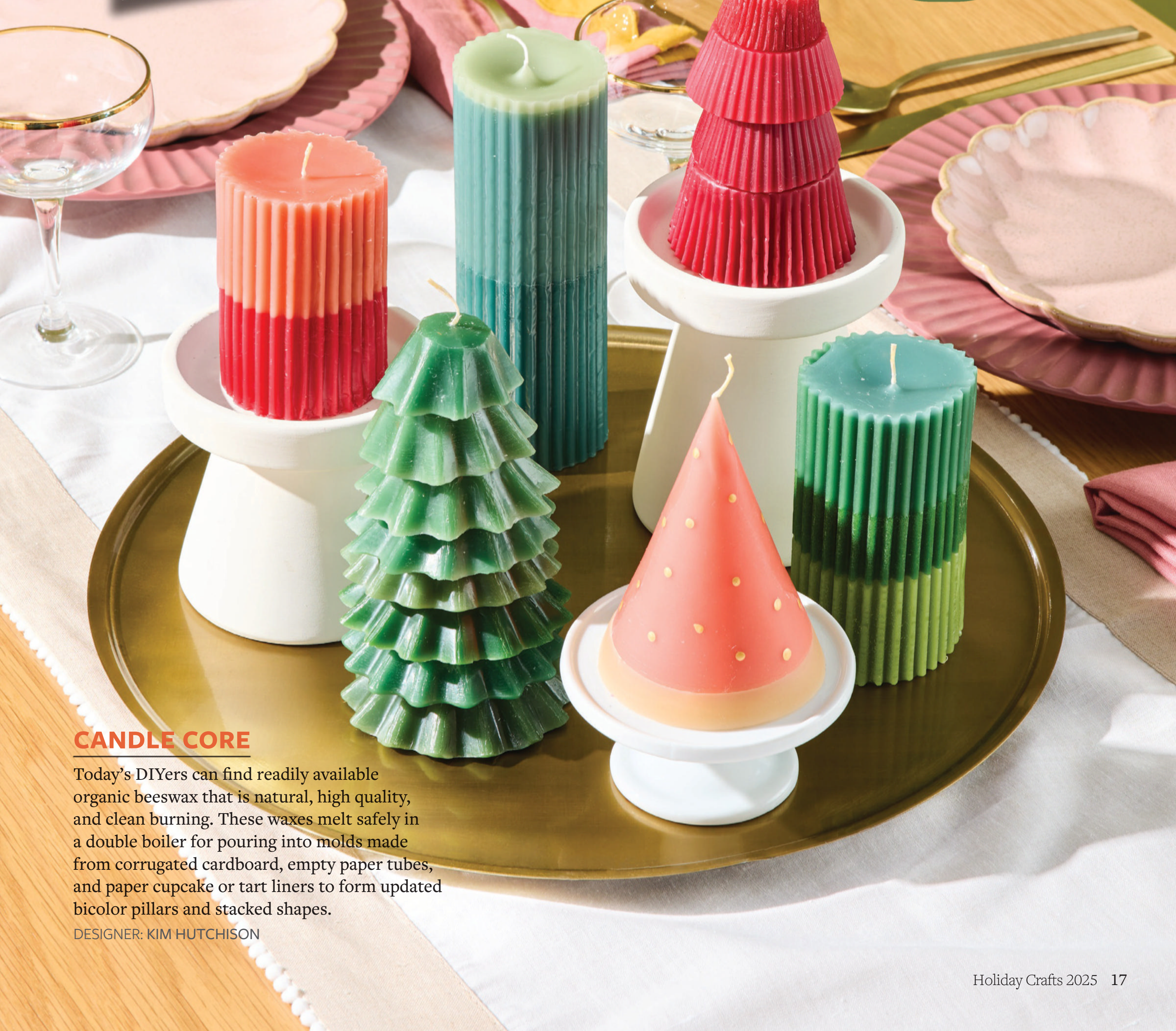
Each fabric letter is carefully sewn, filled with plush polyester fiberfill, and stitched together to create feel-good messages. Hang on a door or nestle in your tree branches to make a statement.

FLAME TIME

Eco-friendly candle-making supplies weren't readily available when our original candle projects (*left*) were published in 1974. The method to make them was somewhat primitive using highly flammable paraffin (the wax used for canning). Our modern technique is easier—and safer—using waxes specifically made for today's candles.

Reimagined

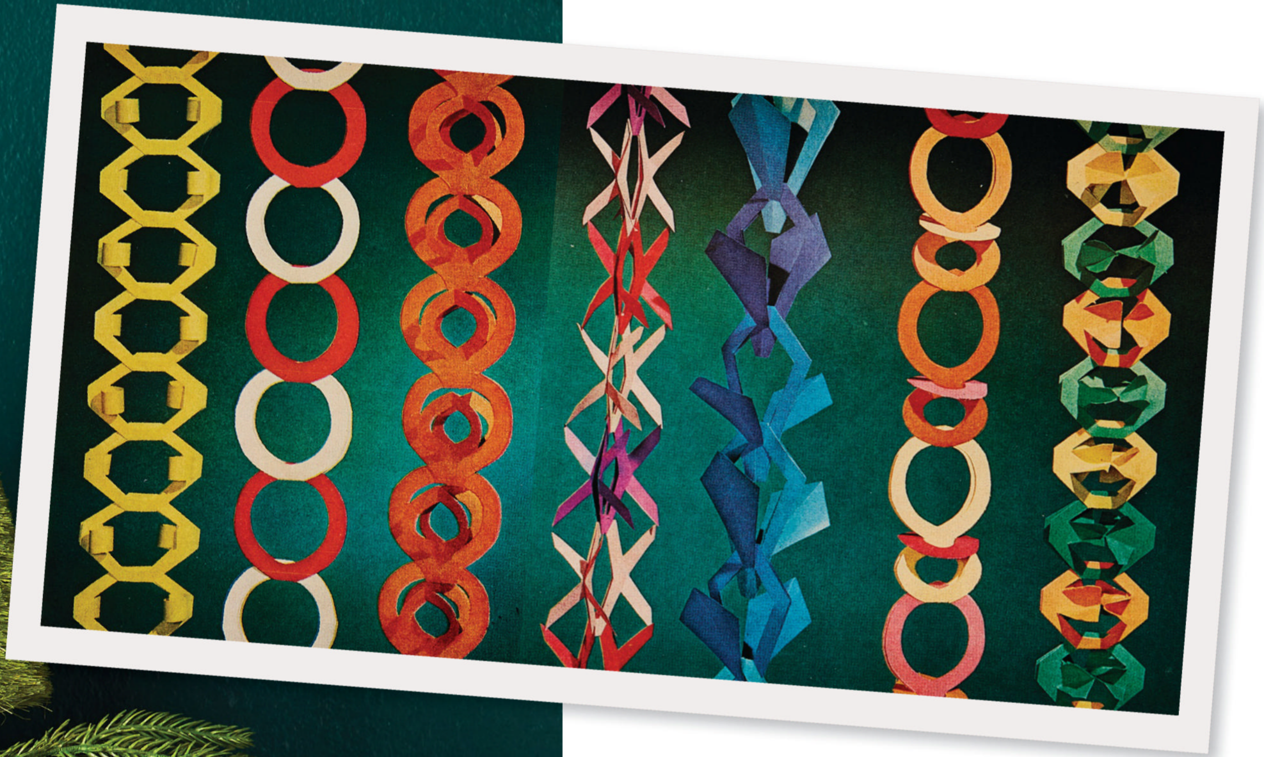
RETRO CANDLES GET A GLOW-UP WITH EASY-TO-USE WAXES AND UPCYCLED MOLDS.



CANDLE CORE

Today's DIYers can find readily available organic beeswax that is natural, high quality, and clean burning. These waxes melt safely in a double boiler for pouring into molds made from corrugated cardboard, empty paper tubes, and paper cupcake or tart liners to form updated bicolor pillars and stacked shapes.

DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON



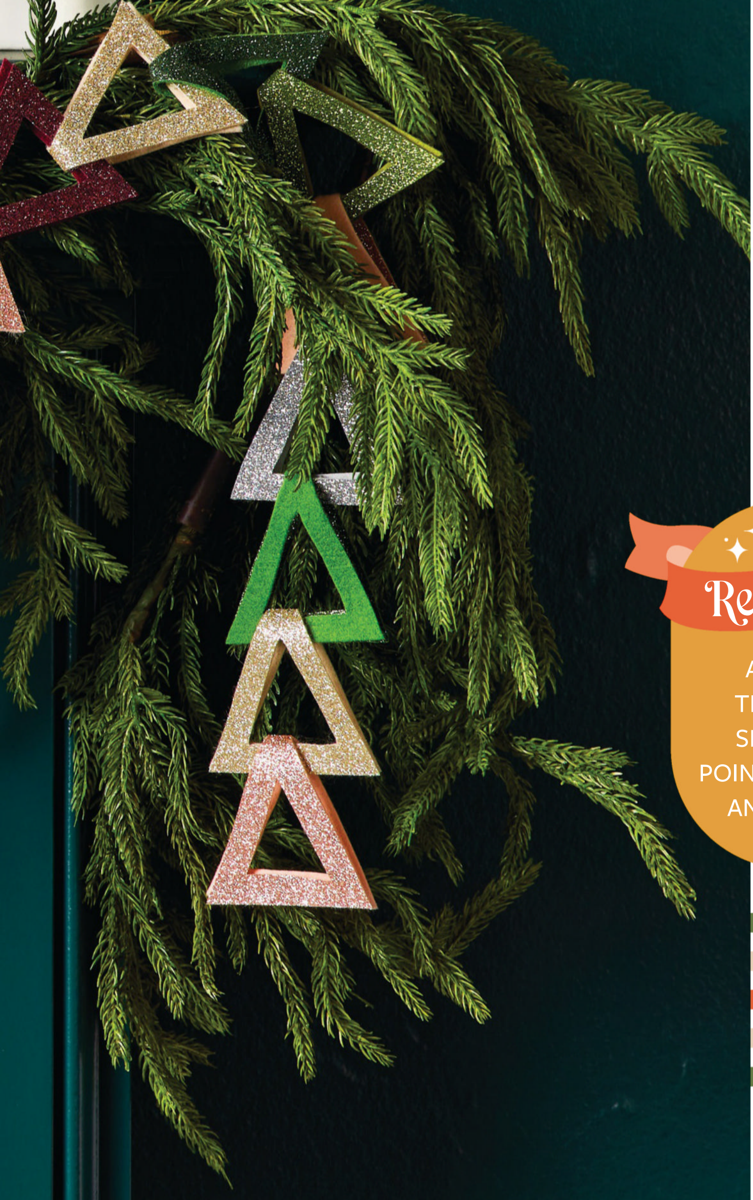
PAPER CHAIN CHARM

Construction paper transforms into intricate garlands (*above*) with just a few folds and snips. Each link in the chain is separate but cleverly joined together to create a colorful handmade touch.

LINKED IN

Inspired by the original projects, this modern take (*left*) shimmers with metallic felt cut into interlocking triangle shapes. The provided pattern makes cutting the shapes easy.

DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON



Reimagined

A MODERN TRIANGULAR SHAPE IS ON POINT WITH SHINE AND SPARKLE.

Instructions

JOLLY LITTLE HELPER

shown on *page 14*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 9×12-inch felt pieces: dark green (sleeves, leggings, jumper, hat brim), light green (shirt, collar, shoes, hat), brown (hair), light pink (ears, hands), dark pink (inner ears), black (eyes), red (mouth)
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ ⅜-inch wooden dowel: cut into one 7½-inch length and two 7-inch lengths
- ☐ Foam balls: 5-inch (head), 2-inch (cheeks), 1-inch (nose)
- ☐ Foam egg: 6-inch (body)
- ☐ Crafts knife
- ☐ Fine-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Spray paint: white
- ☐ 40-inch length of 24-gauge wire
- ☐ Bamboo skewer
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Cotton batting
- ☐ Foam paintbrush
- ☐ Acrylic paint: light pink
- ☐ Powder blush
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ Jingle bells: large and small
- ☐ Sewing needle: regular and large-eye
- ☐ Sewing thread: green
- ☐ Acrylic yarn: green
- ☐ 18-inch-long vinyl strip: black (belt)
- ☐ Small gold buckle

CUT THE PIECES

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace patterns onto appropriate felt colors the number of times indicated on the patterns; cut out.

MAKE THE BODY

Dab crafts glue onto one end of 7½-inch dowel. Push glue end of dowel end halfway into 5-inch foam ball. Dab crafts glue onto opposite end of dowel and push into 6-inch foam egg **(Diagram 1).** Insert two 7-inch dowels into the wide end of the foam egg for legs **(Diagram 2).** Let dry.

Cut 1-inch and 2-inch foam balls in half for cheeks and nose. Sand the cut sides until concave to fit head; glue into place.

Spray head and body with white paint; let dry.

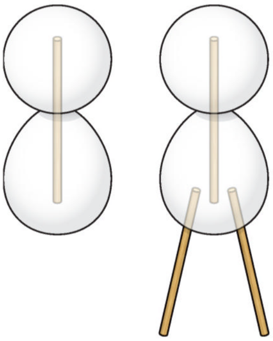


DIAGRAM 1

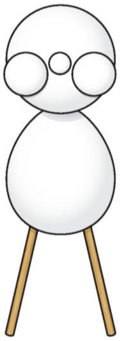


DIAGRAM 2

MAKE THE ARMS

Bend wire end to meet at the center to make two loops; twist ends around center to secure. Using a bamboo skewer, poke a hole through the body near the top. Push one arm loop through the hole and out the opposite side so loops extend out from each side of the body for the arms **(Diagram 3).** Push hot glue into holes to secure arms. Using crafts glue, cover arms, body, and legs with narrow strips of cotton batting **(Diagram 4).**

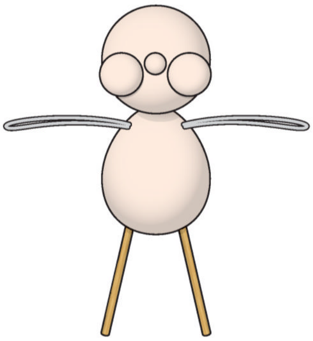


DIAGRAM 3

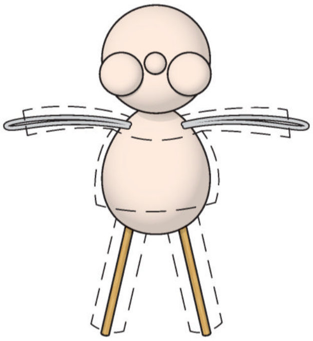


DIAGRAM 4

ADD THE FACIAL DETAILS

Using a foam brush, paint head, nose, and cheeks light pink; let dry. Apply powder blush to nose and cheeks.

Glue eyes and mouth to head; let dry. Glue light pink ear pieces together along outside edges, leaving straight edge open. Stuff each ear with polyester fiberfill. Cut a slit on each side of head for ears. Push glue into slit; insert one ear into each slit. Glue dark pink ear pieces to each ear; let dry.

Glue hair to head, overlapping ears. Glue hand pieces together in pairs, leaving wrists open. Place hands on wire arms; stuff with fiberfill and cinch wrist with sewing thread **(Diagram 5).** Hot-glue hands to wire.

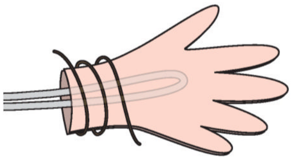


DIAGRAM 5

ADD THE HAT

For the hat brim, cut a dark green felt piece in half lengthwise. Glue the pieces together **(Diagram 6).** Fold under long edges ½ inch; glue in place **(Diagram 6).** Fold in half lengthwise and glue together.

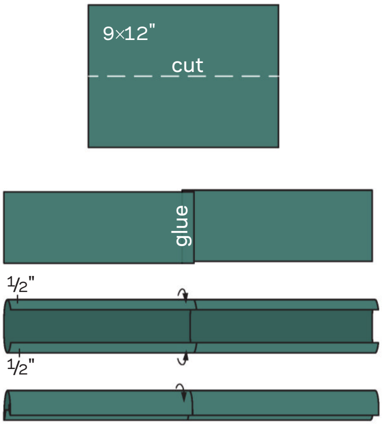


DIAGRAM 6

Glue two light green felt pieces together for hat cone, using a ¼ inch overlap on the long edges. Referring to the diagram, cut a triangle **(Diagram 7).** Shape triangle into cone, gluing edges together to secure. Trim off excess **(Diagram 8).** Glue cone to head. Add brim to base of cone. Stitch a bell to the tip of the hat. Shape hat as desired.

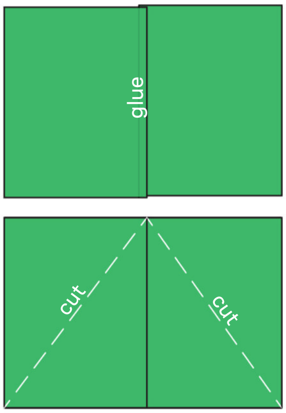


DIAGRAM 7

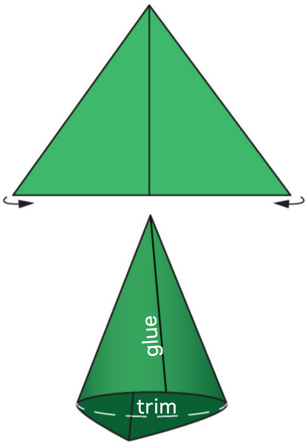


DIAGRAM 8

ADD THE CLOTHING

Wrap sleeve and legging pieces around arms and legs; glue to secure. Wrap shoes around ends of legs, gluing edges together and leaving area around ankles open. Stuff shoes with fiberfill. Using green yarn and a large-eye sewing needle, stitch a gathering stitch around each ankle; tie the ends together in a bow. Stitch a bell to the tip of each shoe.

Glue jumper pieces together at shoulder seams; let dry. Place shirt inside jumper; glue along jumper sleeve edges and shirt base **(Diagram 9).** Fit over body; glue along back and side seams. Topstitch along sleeves and collar while collar is still unattached, then glue collar in place.

Glue belt around waist. Glue belt loops and buckle to belt. Let dry.

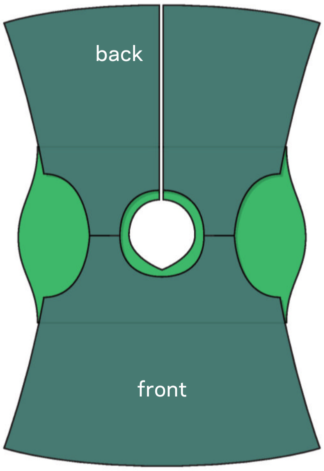


DIAGRAM 9

WOVEN WONDERS

shown on *page 15*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Wooden crafts sticks
- ☐ ⅛-inch-wide ribbon in assorted colors
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Wooden beads (optional)
- ☐ Clear thread

CREATE THE FRAME

Cross two or more crafts sticks at their centers. (Use two sticks for a diamond shape, three sticks for a hexagon, or four sticks for an octagon.) Hot-glue sticks together in the center.

Moving counterclockwise, label the end of each stick arm A, B, C, D, etc., lightly with pencil.

WRAP AND FINISH ORNAMENT

With arm A facing you, wrap desired ribbon around the center of the frame twice in one direction; secure ribbon end. Cross the ribbon three times in one direction and then three times in the opposite direction, covering the center joint completely. Bring ribbon to front.

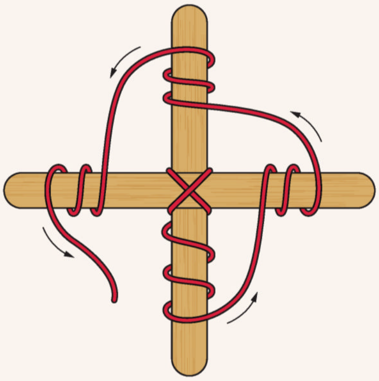
Beginning at arm A, top wrap ribbon around each arm twice **(Ojos Diagram);** moving clockwise and pulling ribbon taut. Keep the wraps tight to prevent gaps between ribbon.

Continue wrapping ribbon around each arm. When ready to change ribbon colors, end wraps on beginning arm. Start next color on a different arm.

To start a new color, cut ribbon after last wrap and hot-glue to back side.

Continue wrapping until arms are almost completely covered, leaving tips of arms uncovered and changing ribbon colors as desired. Hot-glue last ribbon strand to back.

If desired, hot-glue small ribbon bows, wooden beads, or other decorative items to the arm ends. Hang ornament with a hanging loop made from clear thread.



OJOS DIAGRAM

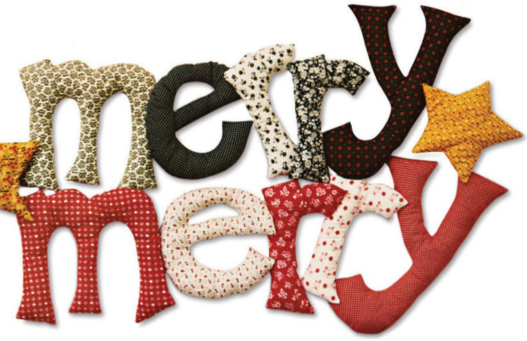
Instructions

STUFFED STATEMENT

shown on *page 16*

MATERIALS

- ☐ ½ yard each of assorted print fabrics
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ Sewing needle and matching thread
- ☐ Straight pins
- ☐ 1⅛-inch plastic rings



CUT OUT THE SHAPES

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Fold each fabric piece in half with right sides together. Trace each letter and shape onto wrong sides of desired fabrics the number of times indicated on the patterns. Sew on the lines through both fabric layers, leaving 3 inches unstitched for each shape. Cut out letters ¼ inch outside the outlines for all letters except the "o" and "e." Clip curves and turn.

Cut out the "o" and the "e" ¼ inch outside the outlines and cut out ¼ inch inside the center drawn lines. Sew on lines, leaving 3 inches unstitched. Clip all curves and turn.

Stuff letters, leaves, and stars with fiberfill. Slip-stitch openings closed.

To make a berry, use a gathering stitch to stitch just inside the edges of one berry circle. With wrong side up, place a small tuft of fiberfill in the center of the circle. Pull thread taut to draw up fabric around fiberfill to make a berry; tie off thread.

ASSEMBLE THE BANNERS

Arrange letters to spell words, slightly overlapping the letters; pin in place. Stitch the letters together along the overlaps. Referring to the photos, *left* and *page 16,* add stars, holly, and/or berries to each word. Stitch rings to back for hanging.

TROPICAL WELCOME

shown on *page 16*

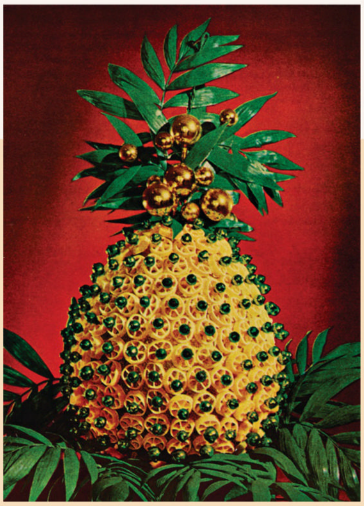
MATERIALS

- ☐ Large foam egg
- ☐ Yellow acrylic paint
- ☐ Foam base
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Silk pins
- ☐ Faceted beads: gold and green
- ☐ 1-inch pasta wheels
- ☐ Artificial palm fronds
- ☐ Assorted miniature gold ball ornaments
- ☐ Crafts wire
- ☐ Wire cutters

Paint the foam egg with yellow acrylic paint; let dry.

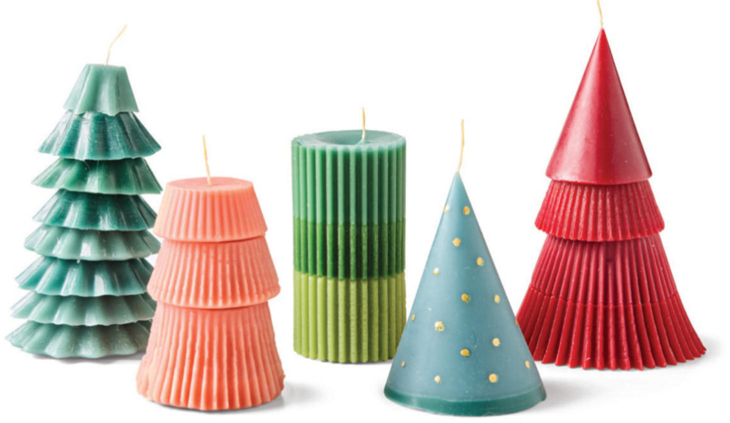
Glue the foam egg to the foam base; let dry. Insert a pin through a bead and then through the center of a pasta wheel. Insert pin into egg until the bead and pasta wheel sit against the egg. Continue adding beads and pasta wheels to the egg in the same manner until the entire egg is covered.

Glue artificial palm fronds to the top of the egg and around the base. Attach the gold ball ornaments to the top with wire.



A Pineapple History

Fascination with this exotic fruit, which originated in South America, led to it being traded across the world. The pineapple was introduced to Europe in the 16th century, where it received the royal treatment as a symbol of wealth and status for gifting and use in extravagant displays. Its unique shape inspired architectural details, decor items, and fashion. As pineapples became more common through new cultivation methods, they eventually evolved into a symbol of welcome and celebration. In 19th-century America, the pineapple solidified its role as a festive centerpiece, gracing Christmas tables with holly, apples, and pinecones. Especially popular in the South, pineapples are a symbol of warmth, generosity, and hospitality, perfect for the holidays.



CANDLE CORE

shown on *page 17*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Roll of corrugated cardboard
- ☐ Aluminum foil
- ☐ Permanent glue stick
- ☐ Bamboo skewer
- ☐ Double-sided tape
- ☐ HVAC metal repair aluminum foil tape
- ☐ Upcycled cardboard
- ☐ 100% organic hemp candle wick with beeswax coating
- ☐ Metal candle wick tabs
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Needle-nose pliers
- ☐ Wood wick holders
- ☐ Empty paper towel or toilet paper tubes
- ☐ Wax-coated snow cone cups
- ☐ Glass canning jar (or other heat-resistant glass jar)
- ☐ Cupcake liners: assorted sizes
- ☐ Paper tart cups
- ☐ Silicone molds
- ☐ Muffin pans (not used for food)
- ☐ Baking sheets (not used for food)
- ☐ 2 pounds of organic beeswax pellets: white or yellow
- ☐ Aluminum candle wax melting pitcher
- ☐ Double boiler
- ☐ Candy thermometer
- ☐ Candle dyes: assorted colors
- ☐ Heat gun
- ☐ Ice pick
- ☐ Upholstery needle
- ☐ 1½×10-inch wood crafts sticks

PREPARE THE CANDLE FORMS

Corrugated cardboard pillars: Cardboard pillars can vary in size. To make a 2-inch-wide pillar candle that is 4 inches tall, cut 4×6-inch pieces of corrugated cardboard and aluminum foil. Flatten a ½-inch-wide corrugated section along one 6-inch side. Apply glue stick to one side of the foil, then lay the foil onto the corrugated side of the cardboard. Using a bamboo skewer, smooth the foil into the valleys of the cardboard.

Place double-sided tape along the flattened area. Form the cardboard into a tube with the corrugated side on the inside, and press the edges together along the taped area. Add strips of aluminum tape along the outside seam to seal the edges and to prevent wax from leaking out when poured into the form.

Cut a cardboard square that is larger than the diameter of the tube. Cut a length of wick that is 2 to 3 inches longer than the length of the tube. Thread one end of the wick through a metal candle wick tab; use needle-nose pliers to crimp the tab onto the wick. Hot-glue the metal tab to the center of the cardboard square. Place cardboard tube over wick so tab is centered inside the tube. Add strips of aluminum tape around the outside edges of the tube to prevent wax from leaking out of the bottom of the form. Extend wick out the top of the form. Hold the wick in the center of the tube by tying a wood wick holder onto the end.

Paper towel or toilet paper tubes: Cut a cardboard square large enough for the tube to stand on. Cut a piece of candle wick that is 2 to 3 inches longer than the length of the tube. Thread one end of the wick through a metal candle wick tab; use needle-nose pliers to crimp the tab onto the wick. Hot-glue the metal tab to the center of the cardboard square. Place cardboard tube over wick so tab is centered inside the tube. Add strips of aluminum tape around the outside edges of the tube to prevent wax from leaking out of the bottom of the form. Extend wick out the top of the form. Hold the wick in the center of the tube by tying a wood wick holder onto the end.

Snow cone paper cups: Cut off the tip of a snow cone cup. Cut a piece of candle wick that is 3 to 4 inches longer than the length of the cup. Thread the wick through the cup; secure the wick to the tip of the cone with aluminum foil tape. Place the cone, pointed end down, in a glass canning jar to hold the cup in place. Hold the wick in the center of the cup by tying a wood wick holder onto the end.

Cupcake liners, paper tart cups, silicone molds: Place liners, cups, or molds into muffin pan. Wicks are not needed as they will be added later.

POUR THE CANDLES

Cover baking sheets with aluminum foil and place sheets on work surface. Set forms on foil-covered sheets.

Add beeswax pellets to candle wax melting pitcher. Following the wax manufacturer’s instructions and using a double boiler, melt the wax. If desired, add candle dye when the wax reaches 150°F. When the wax reaches 160°F, it is ready to pour.

Slowly pour wax into desired form, ensuring wick stays centered, if used. For a layered look, partially fill form with first color; let set for 45 to 60 minutes. Pour second wax color on top of first layer. If sinkholes occur when cooling, top off the candle to fill the hole or use a heat gun to reheat the top of the wax, being careful not to overheat.

COMPLETE THE CANDLES

Once completely set up, remove the candle from the form. If the candle sticks to the form, set it into the freezer for 15 to 20 minutes; the candle should easily pull away from the form.

To make stacked candles using the wax shapes made in the muffin pan, heat an ice pick with a heat gun, then push a hole through the center of each shape. Cut a length of wick that is long enough to go through the desired candle layers when stacked. Using an upholstery needle, thread wick through one shape; attach wick to end, securing with a wick tab. Add a small amount of heated wax to hole and top of first piece; thread second shape onto stack; let dry. Continue adding shapes to complete stack.

Instructions

PAPER CHAIN CHARM

shown on *page 19*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 9×12-inch sheets of construction paper: various colors
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Scissors

PREPARE THE PAPER

Cut a rectangle for each chain link to the size indicated. Quarter-fold each rectangle by folding it in half, then in half again **(Diagram 1).** Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* shown for each chain (*right* and *opposite*). Trim out shape and unfold **(Diagram 2).** Connect the links by carefully bending half of an open link and slipping it through a closed link **(Diagram 3).**

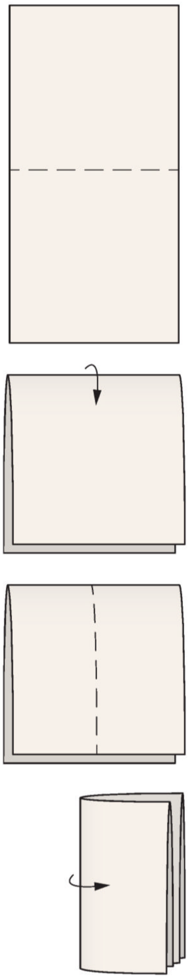


DIAGRAM 1

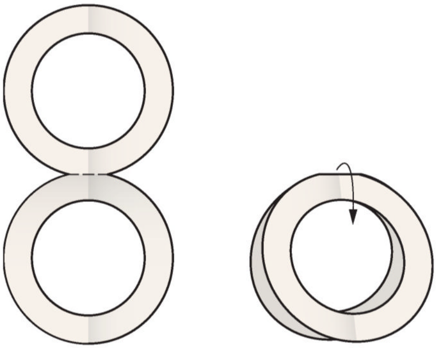


DIAGRAM 2

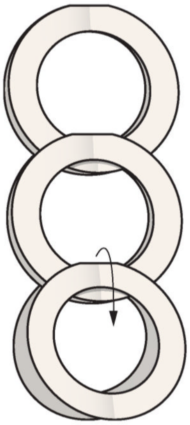
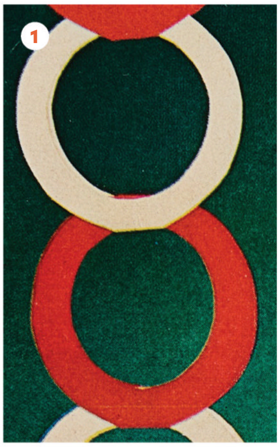
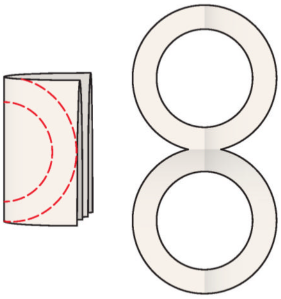


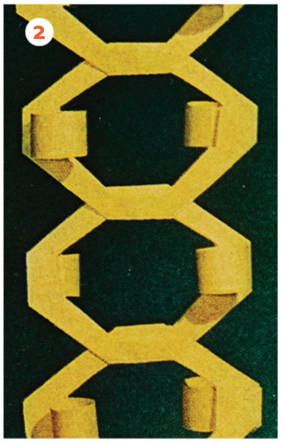
DIAGRAM 3



CHAIN 1: Cut a 3×6-inch rectangle from desired paper, or for a smaller chain, cut a 2¼×4¼-inch rectangle; quarter-fold. Trace pattern. Cut along the lines.

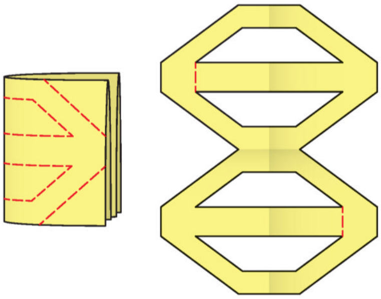
Repeat to make desired number of links. Connect the links.





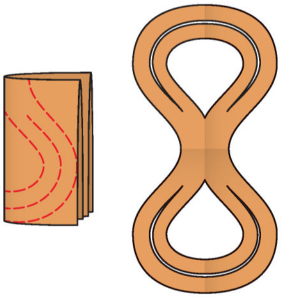
CHAIN 2: Cut a 3×4½-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern and cut along the lines; unfold link once.

Repeat to make desired number of links. Snip the center strips in the middle; curl the strip ends outward by wrapping around a pencil. Connect the links.



CHAIN 3: Cut a 3×6-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern and cut along the lines; unfold link once.

Repeat to make desired number of links. Connect the links. Bend center sections of each chain outward.



LINKED IN

shown on *page 18*

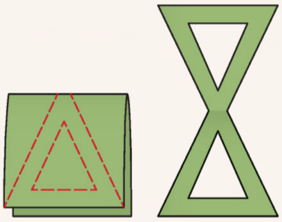
MATERIALS

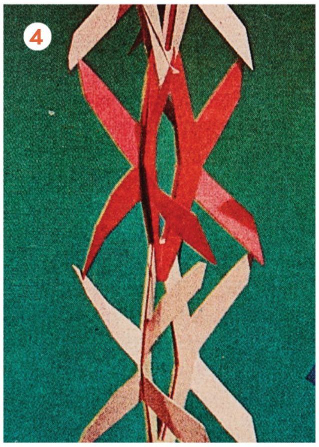
- ☐ 9×12-inch metallic felt sheets: burgundy, champagne, pink, two shades of green, gold, silver
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue dots

Trace pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace pattern onto felt side of metallic sheets, repositioning it as close as possible to the previous tracing to trace six shapes onto each piece of felt; cut out the shapes. Repeat to cut out as many shapes as desired to create the desired length. Note: One foot of garland requires five shapes.

Fold one shape in half to create a triangle. Add a glue dot between the halves along each long side.

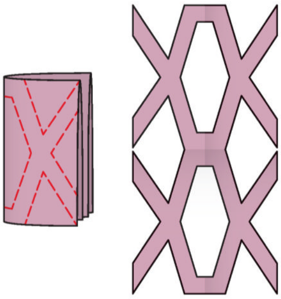
Thread a second shape through the first and fold in half as before. Add glue dots. Continue adding shapes in the same manner until the garland is the desired length.

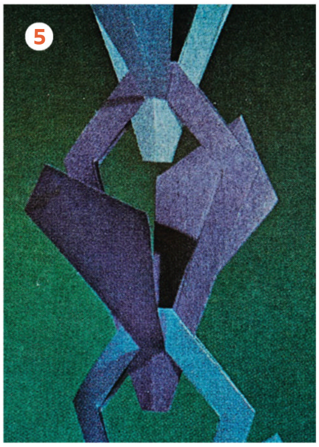




CHAIN 4: Cut a 3×6-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern. Cut along the lines; unfold link once.

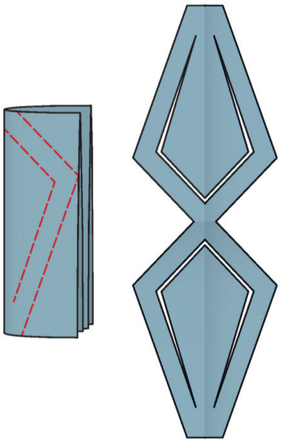
Repeat to make desired number of links. Connect the links. Bend center sections of each chain outward.

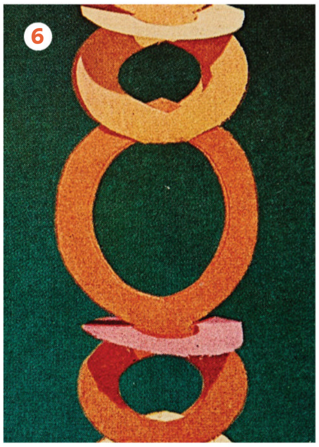




CHAIN 5: Cut a 3×9-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern. Cut along the lines; unfold link once.

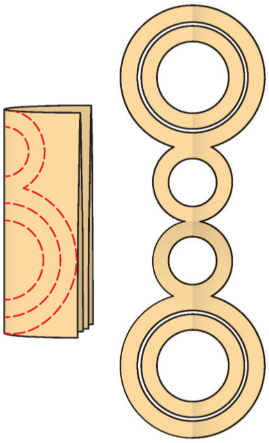
Repeat to make desired number of links. Connect the links.

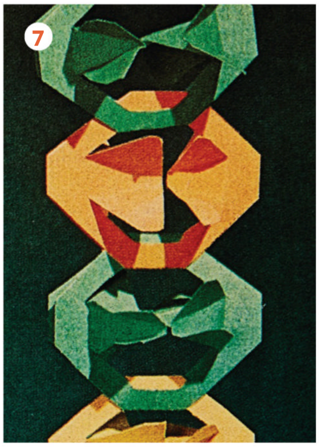




CHAIN 6: Cut a 3×9-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern and cut along the lines; unfold link once. Reserve cut ring.

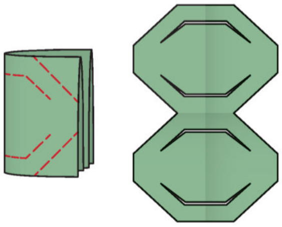
Repeat to make desired number of links, reserving cut rings. Bend link in half; carefully slip cut ring over link. Repeat with remaining links and rings.





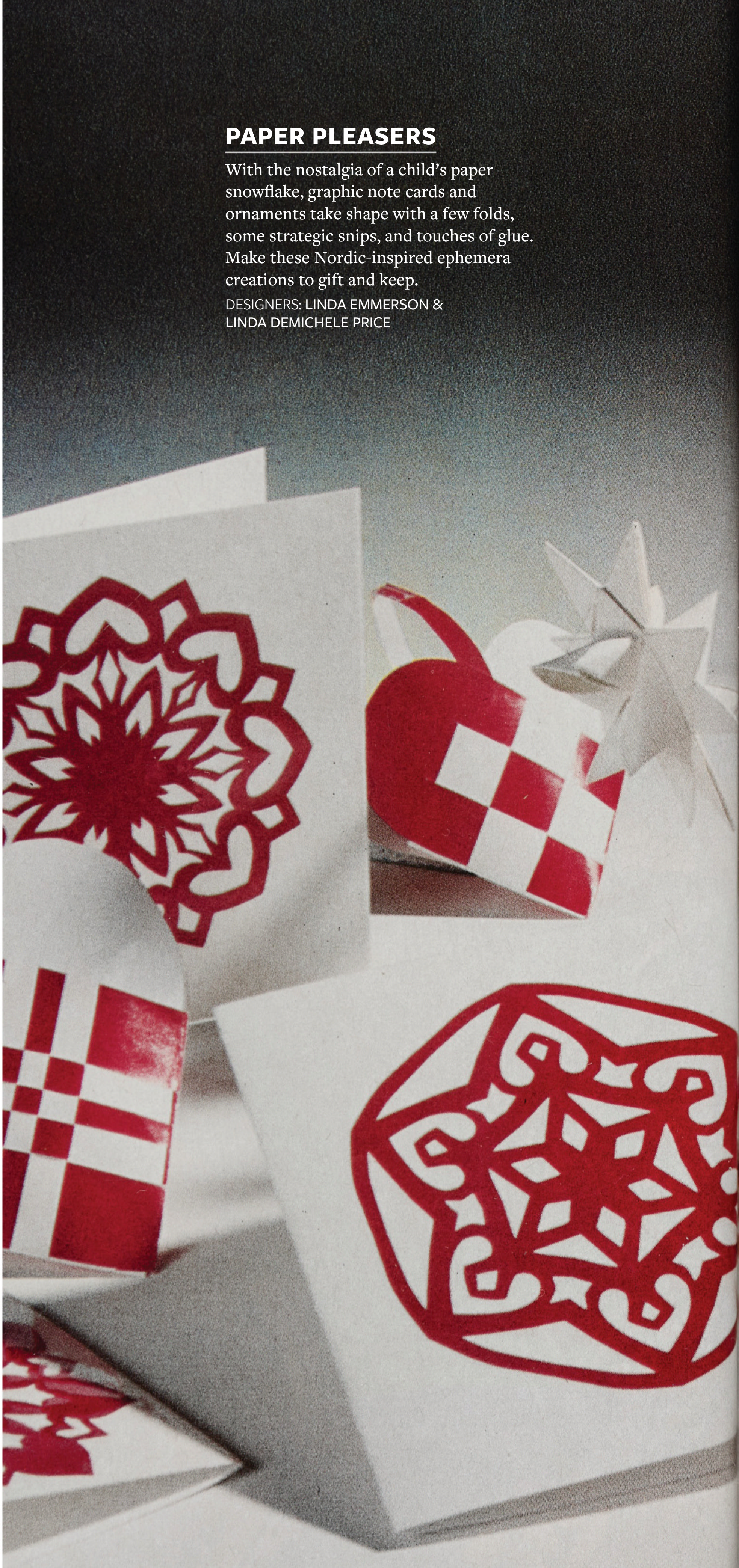
CHAIN 7: Cut a 3×4½-inch rectangle from desired paper; quarter-fold. Trace pattern. Cut along the lines; unfold link once. Cut through center and fold as indicated.

Repeat to make desired number of links. Connect the links.



1980s

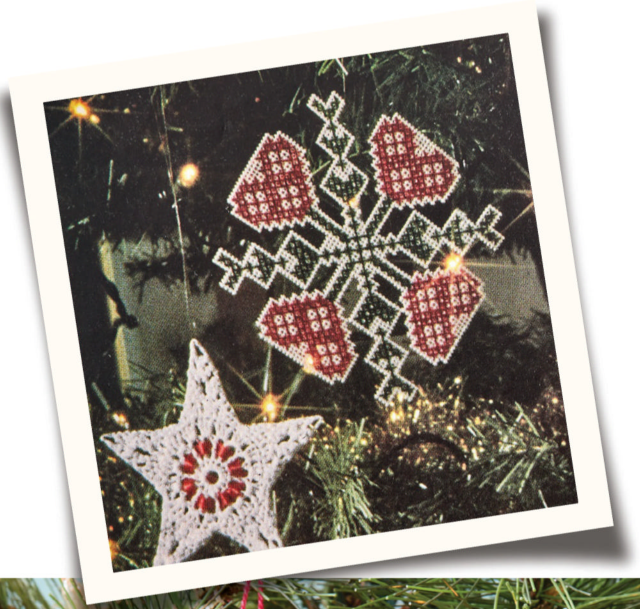
Rediscover the joys of classic ’80s crafts with favorite throwback projects using techniques that never go out of style. Textural crafting such as cross-stitch, crochet, quilting, and more were popular at this time and are still relevant today.



PAPER PLEASERS

With the nostalgia of a child’s paper snowflake, graphic note cards and ornaments take shape with a few folds, some strategic snips, and touches of glue. Make these Nordic-inspired ephemera creations to gift and keep.

DESIGNERS: LINDA EMMERSON & LINDA DEMICHELE PRICE



WINTER'S FLURRY

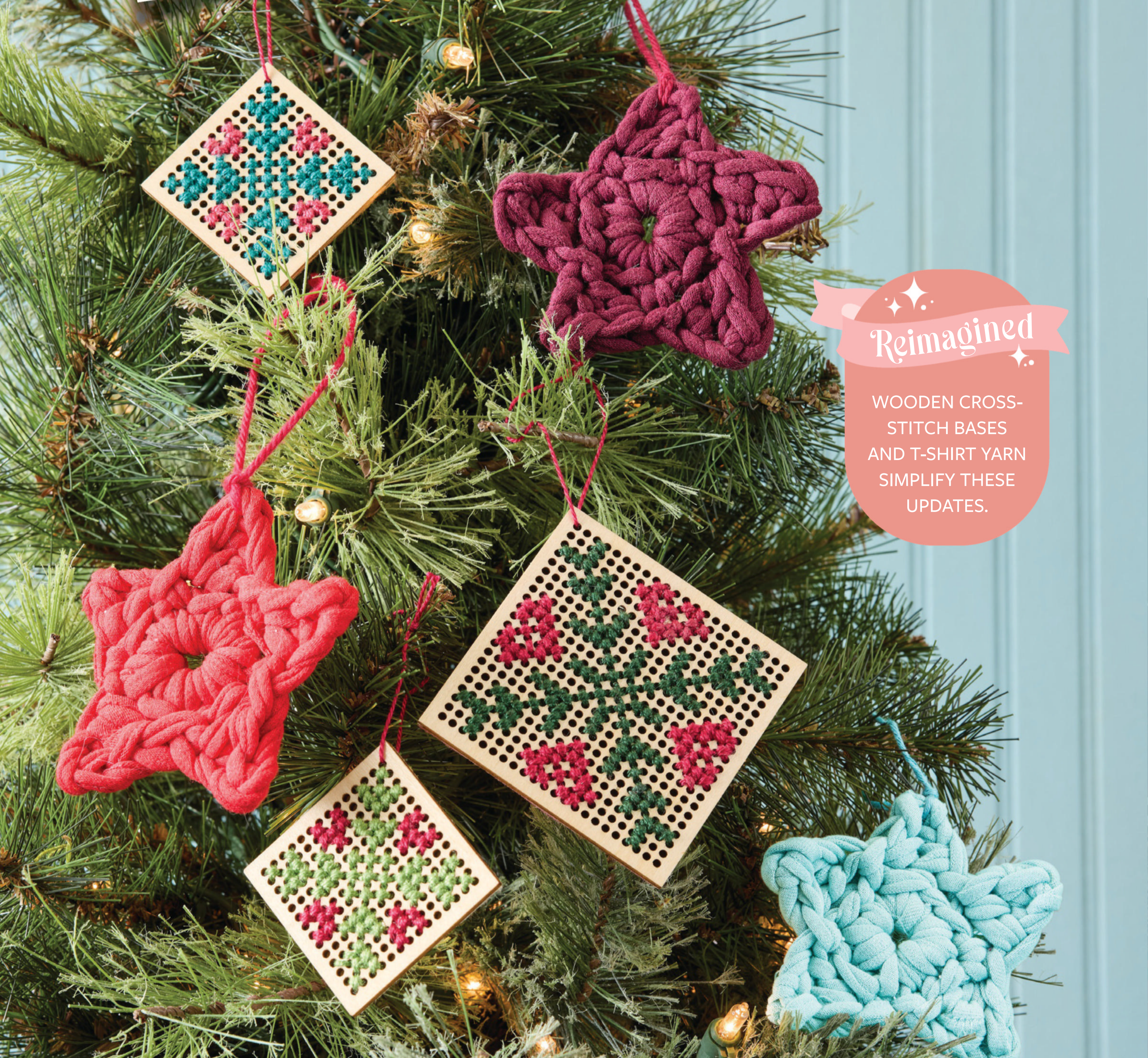
Dazzling yet delicate, this cross-stitch snowflake ornament (*left*) adds a touch of festive craftiness to a tree, gift, or other spot in your home. Choose traditional holiday colors or switch it up with a palette of your choice. To finish, simply cut around the completed design and attach a hanging loop.

DESIGNER: SARA JANE TREINEN

STAR BRIGHT

This celestial design (*left*) comes together quickly with cotton yarn and basic crochet stitches—even for beginners. Make multiple stars to use as gift tags or for stringing onto a garland or wreath. A coating of diluted crafts glue serves as a stiffener. Red ribbon woven through the open spaces adds a cheery accent.

DESIGNER: KAREN TAYLOR



Reimagined

WOODEN CROSS-STITCH BASES AND T-SHIRT YARN SIMPLIFY THESE UPDATES.

Follow our color suggestions or choose your own look.

SNOW TIME

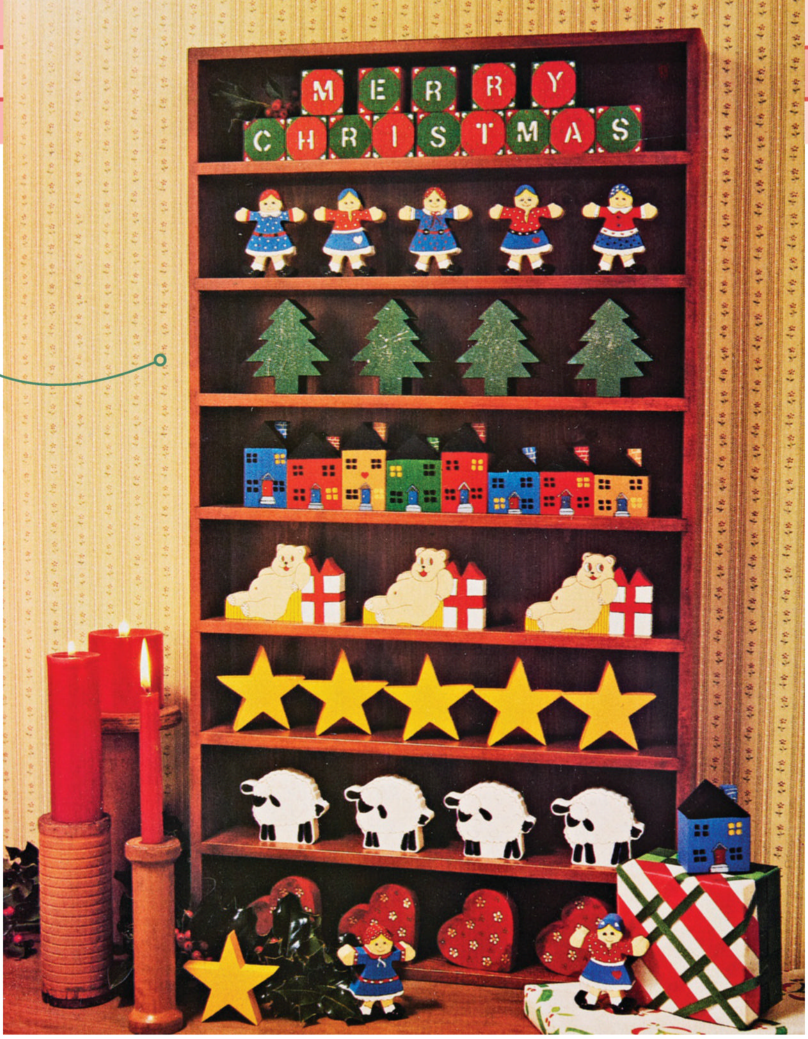
Wood blanks predrilled with holes are perfect for embroidery and provide a firm foundation for our cleverly updated snowflake motifs (*opposite below*). Gluing felt to the back before stitching anchors any knots from slipping through the holes as you stitch.

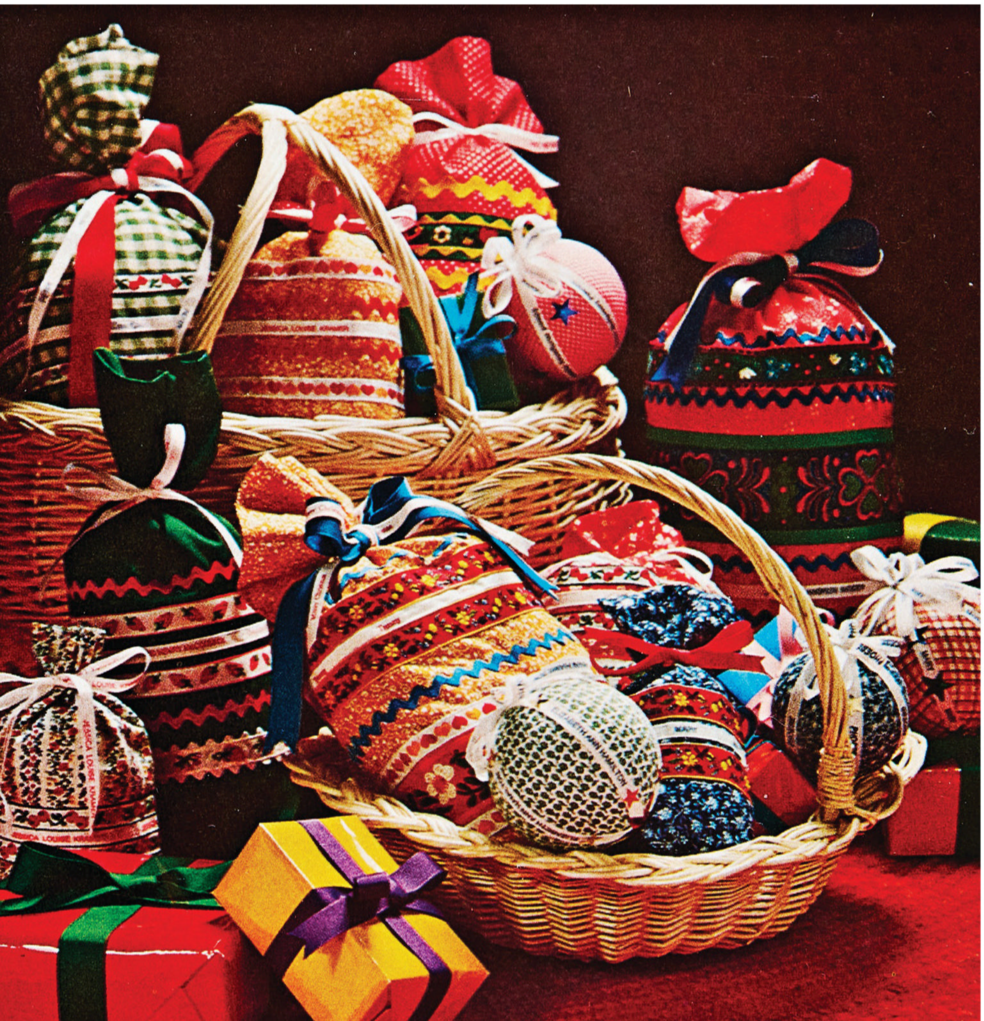
DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON

YARN POWER

Softer than our original, these crochet stars (*opposite below*) shine using yarn made from a solid-color T-shirt rather than traditional cotton thread. Upcycled T-shirts are perfectly suited for making your own yarn using our step-by-step instructions, or purchase the yarn for ease.

DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON





SMALL WONDERS

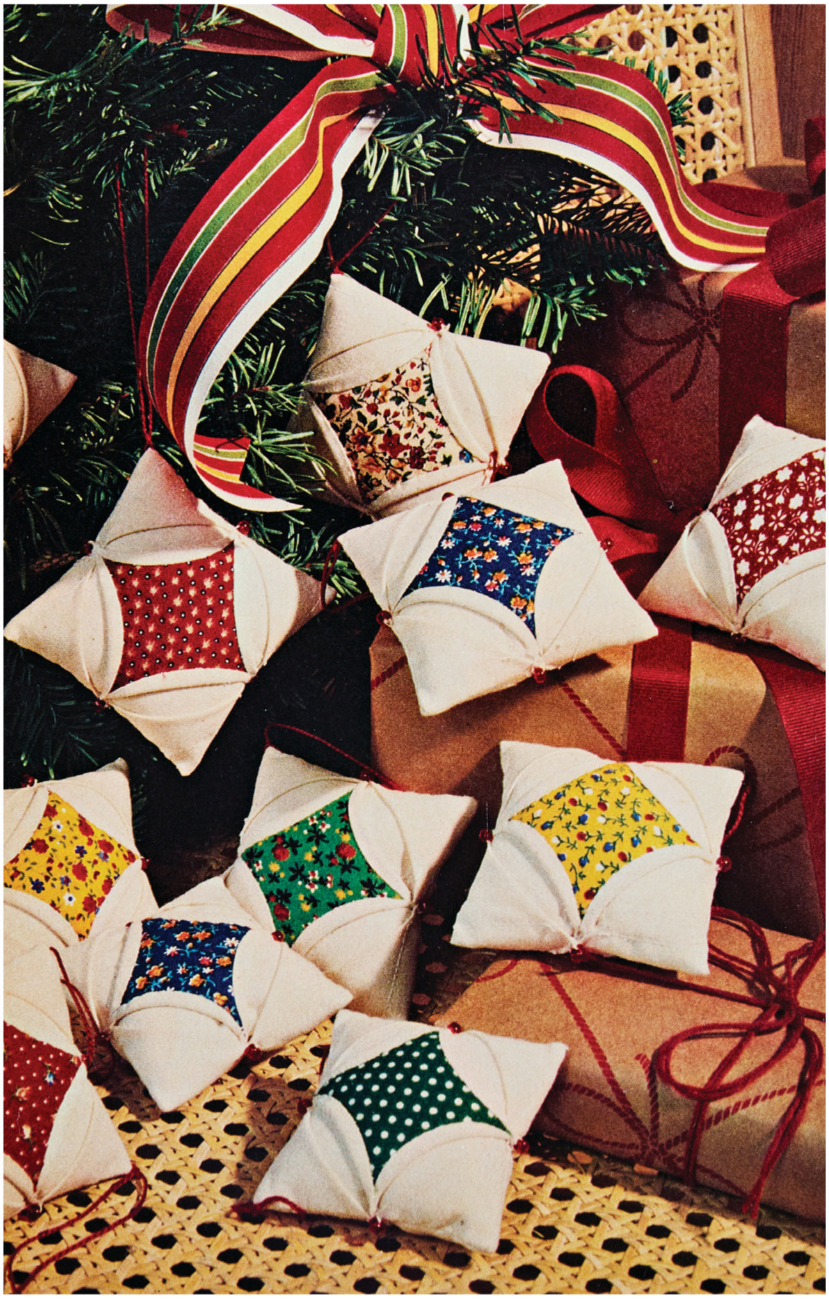
Decorative wooden miniatures were all the rage in 1985 when this whimsical collection (*above*) was featured in *Holiday Crafts*. Each motif, such as the lazy polar bear, snowy pine tree, and color-block house, is hand-painted onto a 1½-inch square block cut from a 2×2 pine board. A band saw creates the detailed shapes. Stage them in groups on a shelf for maximum impact.

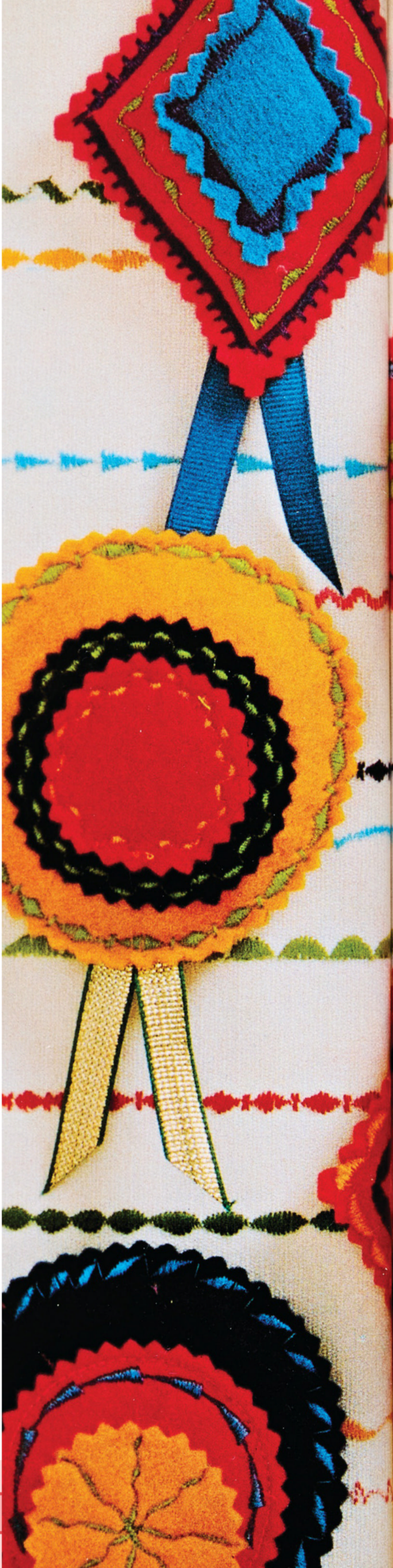
DESIGNER: BEV RIVERS

TOTAL PACKAGE

Forgo purchased wrapping paper and bows and reach into your trusty stash of leftover fabric scraps instead. Charming gift bags (*left*) with cozy country style can be stitched up faster than a trip to the store. Each starts with a fabric rectangle cut to the desired size, and topstitched rows of ribbons and rickrack adorn. Simply tuck in your gift and cinch up with a bow. Plus, they can be reused for years to come.

DESIGNER: CIBA VAUGHAN





SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND

Inspired by a traditional cathedral window quilt pattern, each of these patchwork beauties (*above*) highlights a diamond of jewel-tone fabric peeking out from a muslin frame. An easy folding-and-cutting process is the trick to fashioning the intricate look.

DESIGNER: PHYLLIS DUNSTAN

STITCH IN TIME

Stacked layers of vibrant felt circles and diamonds form the base of these ornaments (*right*), which are reminiscent of prize ribbon awards. Cut the shapes and decorate with stitches in contrasting threads. Ribbon tails extend from the bottom for a fanciful flourish, perfect for the tree or on top of a package.

DESIGNER: MEREDITH ALMSTEDT

Instructions

PAPER PLEASERS

shown on *page 26*

NOTE CARD

MATERIALS

- ☐ Red tissue paper
- ☐ 4- or 5-inch square white note card
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Self-adhesive laminating sheets

Cut tissue paper into a square the same size as note card. Fold tissue square in half, then in half again. Fold in half diagonally to form a triangle, keeping all folded edges together.

Using scissors with sharp points, cut small shapes along the edges of the folded triangle, making sure to not cut all the way through the center. Unfold.

Center the tissue cutout on the front of the note card and secure with dots of glue.

Apply a laminated sheet to the front of the card; cut the edges flush with the card.

HEART BASKET

MATERIALS

- ☐ 8½×11-inch paper: red, white

Cut one 2×6-inch rectangle from red paper. Cut a second 2×6-inch rectangle from white paper. Fold each rectangle in half crosswise **(Diagram 1).** Round the corners with scissors and make two 2-inch-deep cuts along the folded edge **(Diagram 2).**

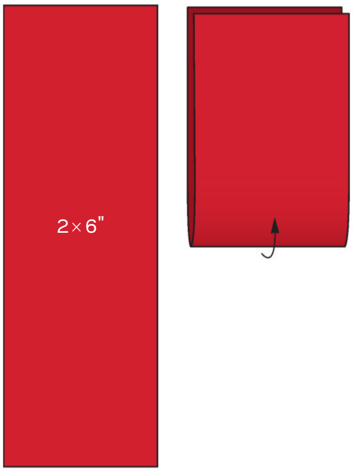


DIAGRAM 1

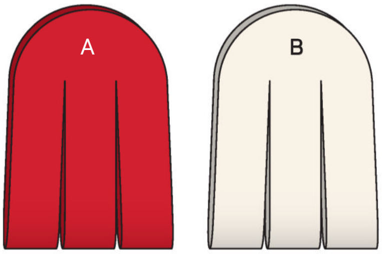
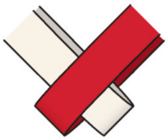
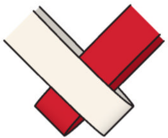


DIAGRAM 2

The folded strips of each rectangle will be slipped either around or through each other, not over and under each other **(Diagram 3).**



around



through

DIAGRAM 3

While holding each rectangle with the folded edges down, slip the first strip of the red piece **(A)** around the first strip of the white piece **(B)**. Then slip the same A strip through the middle B strip. Then slip the same A strip around the last B strip **(Diagram 4)**. Repeat with the middle A strip, but start by slipping through the first B strip and alternate. Finish with the final A strip, following the same order as the first A strip **(Diagrams 5 and 6)**. Cut a ¼×6-inch paper strip for the handle. Fold it in half crosswise and glue the ends to the inside edges of the basket.

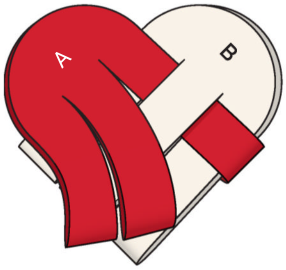


DIAGRAM 4

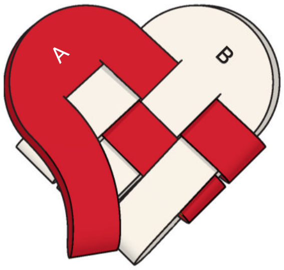


DIAGRAM 5

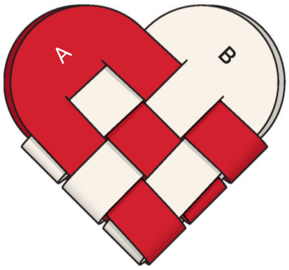


DIAGRAM 6

PAPER CORNUCOPIA

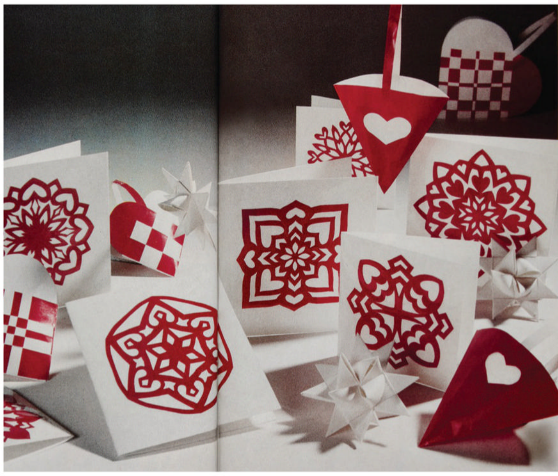
MATERIALS

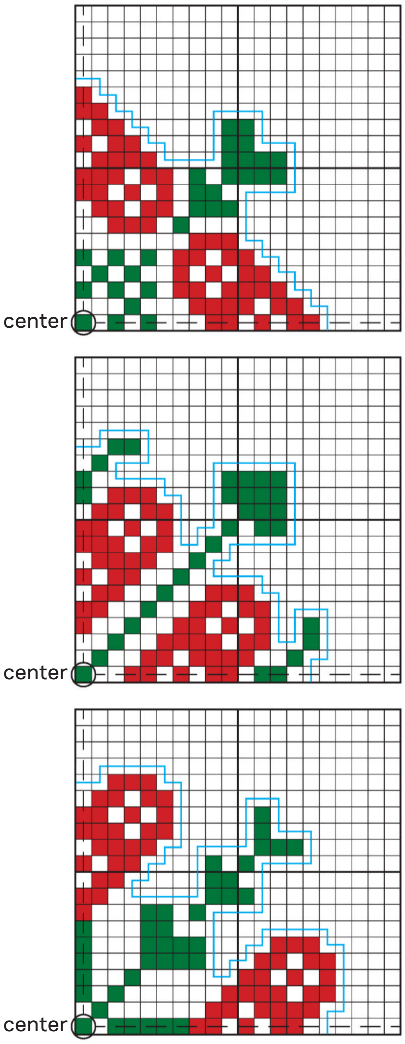
- ☐ 11×17-inch paper: red, white

From red or white paper, cut a 10-inch-diameter circle. (Note: We used a dinner plate as a template.) Lightly fold the circle in half; cut on fold.

Glue the cut edges of one half-circle together to form a cone. Cut a heart from contrasting paper and glue to side of cone.

Cut a ¾-inch-wide strip of paper for handle. Glue strip ends to inside of cone.





CROSS-STITCH DIAGRAM

● DMC #321
● DMC #699

WINTER'S FLURRY

shown on *page 28*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 2—9×12-inch sheets perforated paper
- ☐ DMC embroidery floss: #321 (red), #699 (green)
- ☐ Tapestry needle
- ☐ Crafts glue

Go to *page 94* for cross-stitch diagram.

Refer to the cross-stitch chart, *left,* when stitching. Use four strands of embroidery floss over two squares on the chart for the ornaments.

When stitching is complete, cut out the ornament design along the solid lines. Cut a length of pearl cotton or ribbon, and thread through the top of ornament. Tie ends in a knot for a hanging.

STAR BRIGHT

shown on *page 28*

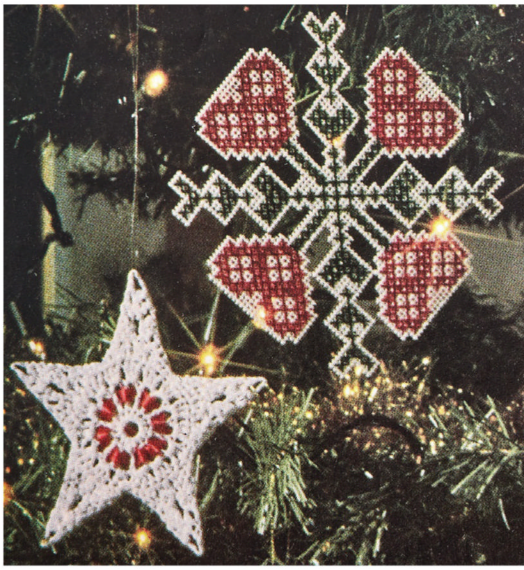
MATERIALS

- ☐ Size 10 100% cotton crochet thread: white
- ☐ Size 6 crochet hook
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Plastic wrap
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Straight pins
- ☐ 8-inch length of ¼-inch-wide ribbon

Gauge: 12 dc = 1 inch

CROCHET THE STAR

Ch 8, join with sl st to form ring.
Rnd 1: Ch 1, work 15 sts in ring; join.
Rnd 2: Ch 5, dc in next sc, * ch 2, dc in next sc; rep from * around, ch 2, join in third ch of beg ch 5—15 ch 2 sp.



Rnd 3: Sl st in to first sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same sp; work 3 dc in each rem sp around, join in top of beg ch 3.
Rnd 4: Beg in same st as joining, * work 2 sc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, dc in next st, trc in next st, ch 5, trc in same st, dc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sl st in next 2 sts; rep from * around, do not join.
Rnd 5: Sl st in next sc, * sc in next sc and hdc, hdc in next hdc, dc in next dc, trc in next trc, 2 trc in ch 5 lp, ch 3, 2 trc in same lp, trc in next trc, dc in next dc, hdc in next hdc, sc in next hdc and sc, sl st in next 4 sts. Rep from * around, ending last rep with 3 sl st. Fasten off.

FINISH THE ORNAMENT

Mix crafts glue with a small amount of water. Dip star into mixture until saturated; squeeze out excess.

Cover cardboard with plastic wrap; secure with tape. Gently shape the star into a symmetrical shape; pin to board. Allow to dry; remove from board.

Thread ribbon through sps of Rnd 2; tie ends in a knot on back side of ornament to secure. For hanging loop, cut a length of crochet thread; thread it through a tip of the star and tie ends in a knot.

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

BEG – begin **CH** – chain **DC** – double crochet **HDC** – half double crochet **LP(S)** – loop(s) **REM** – remaining **REP** – repeat **RND** – round
SC – single crochet **SL ST** – slip stitch **SP** – space **ST(S)** – stitch(es) **TRC** – treble crochet (triple crochet)

Instructions

SNOW TIME

shown on *page 28*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Blank wooden square ornaments for cross-stitch: 2-inch and 3-inch
- ☐ Wool felt sheets: red, green
- ☐ Temporary-hold fabric glue stick
- ☐ Size 5 pearl cotton: #309, #326 (reds), #991, #470, #895 (greens)
- ☐ Embroidery needle
- ☐ Permanent-hold fabric glue

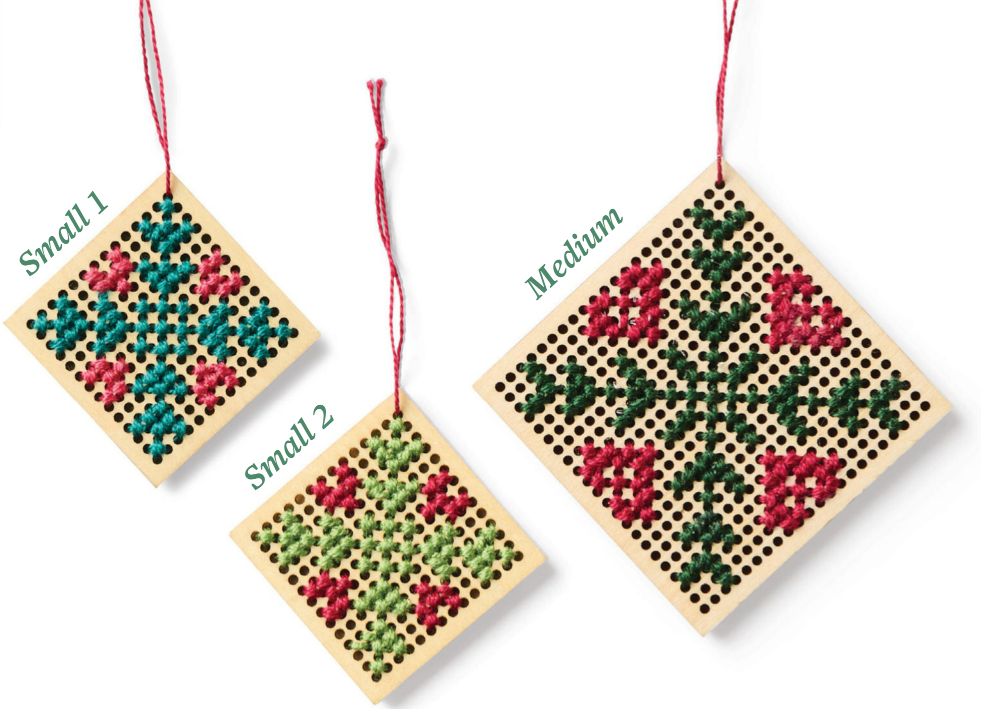
Go to *page 94* for cross-stitch diagram.

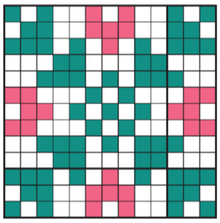
Trace desired wooden ornament twice onto wool felt; cut out. Using temporary glue, adhere one felt square to the back of the ornament. Place second felt square aside.

Refer to desired cross-stitch chart when stitching. Begin in the center of the design, stitching through the felt backing.

When stitching is complete, use permanent glue to adhere reserved felt square to the back of the ornament.

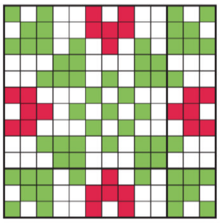
Cut an 8-inch length of pearl cotton; thread through the corner hole of ornament. Tie ends in a knot for a hanging loop.





SMALL 1 CROSS-STITCH PATTERN

● DMC #309
● DMC #991

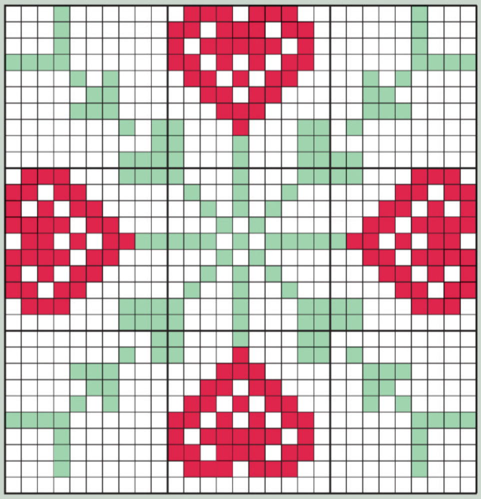


SMALL 2 CROSS-STITCH PATTERN

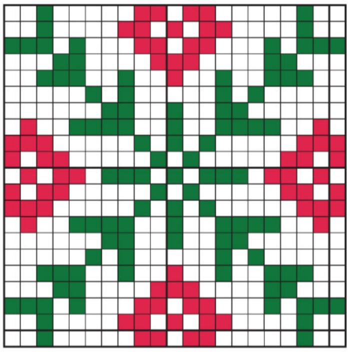
● DMC #326
● DMC #470

Bonus!

Wooden cross-stitch blanks can be found on Etsy or Amazon in basic sizes. Our featured project uses 2-inch and 3-inch squares, but we're also sharing a BONUS 4-inch pattern. Stitch away in colors of your choosing.



LARGE CROSS-STITCH PATTERN



MEDIUM CROSS-STITCH PATTERN

● DMC #326
● DMC #895

YARN POWER

shown on *page 28*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Solid cotton T-shirt or purchased T-shirt yarn
- ☐ Scissors or rotary cutter
- ☐ Cutting mat
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Size 9 or 10 crochet hook
- ☐ Yarn needle

MAKE THE T-SHIRT YARN

To make T-shirt yarn, lay T-shirt flat on cutting mat. Use a scissors or rotary cutter and ruler to cut across the front of the T-shirt just below armpits. Cut off bottom hemmed edge; discard strip **(Photo A).**

Cut 1-inch-wide strips beginning at one side seam and ending approximately 1 inch before opposite side seam **(Photo B).**

Open up uncut side seam; finger-press. Cut diagonally across seam **(Photo C)** from top of strip one on the right to top of strip two on the left, then top of strip two on the right to top of strip three on the left, and so on. This will connect every other strip and make one long continuous strip. Pull and stretch the strip; wind to create a ball of yarn.

MAKE THE MAGIC RING

Wrap end of T-shirt yarn around the pointer finger of the right hand, wrapping from bottom to top and left to right three times. Insert crochet hook under first two wraps, pull third lp back through; one lp rem on hook; ch 1. Yo, pull yarn through to form a new lp. Move lps from finger with tail in front and working yarn behind the stitches. At this point there should be one lp on hook and two lps below the start of the ring.

Insert hook through lps, pull working yarn through; two lps rem on hook.

Yo; pull through both lps; 10 sc. Adjust sts so they are flat and point outward; pull tail to tighten ring.

Join first sc, sl st, pull yarn through and pull lp through previous st. Center ring complete.

MAKE THE STAR POINTS

Ch 3; yo, pull yarn through to form a new lp. Rep to make 3 lps.

Sc through second ch, go through second ch, pull yarn through making two lps on hook, yo and pull back through.

Hdc, go under working yarn through the first chain, pull yarn through to make 3 lps on crochet hook. Yo, pull back through all 3 lps.

Join first point to magic ring with a sl st. Sk st, insert hook into next st, yo, pull sts through. Rep to make four more points.

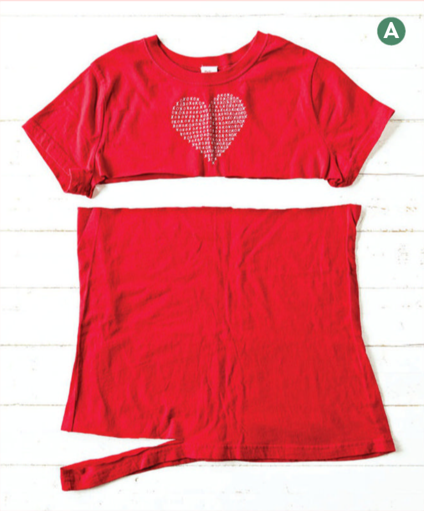
To fasten off, pull yarn through last rem lp on hook. Pull yarn tail to tighten. Using yarn needle, weave ends in back of work; trim end.

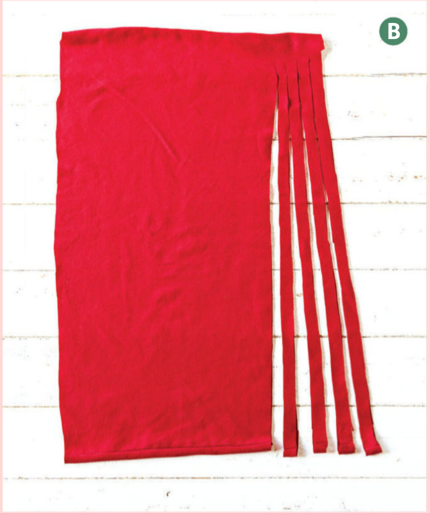
Add a length of yarn or cording for hanging.

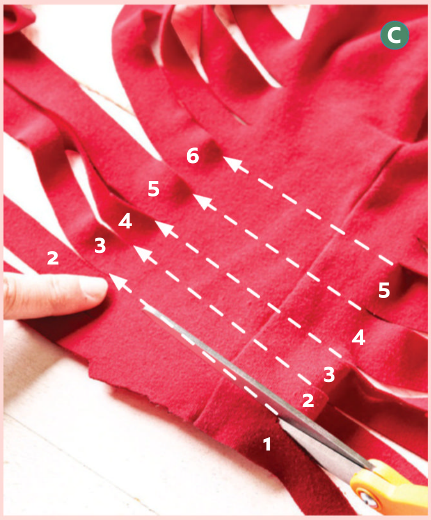
CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

CH – chain **HDC** – half double crochet **LP(S)** – loop(s) **REM** – remaining **REP** – repeat **SC** – single crochet
SL ST – slip stitch **SK** – skip **ST(S)** – stitch(es) **YO** – yarn over

Make T-Shirt Yarn







SMALL WONDERS

shown on *page 29*

MATERIALS

☐ 2×2 pine board, cut into fourteen 1½-inch square blocks
☐ Sandpaper: medium- and fine-grit
☐ Acrylic paint: white, red, green, blue, black, brown, gold, light tan, dark red
☐ Foam brush
☐ Graphite transfer paper
☐ Band saw
☐ Artists brushes
☐ Old toothbrush

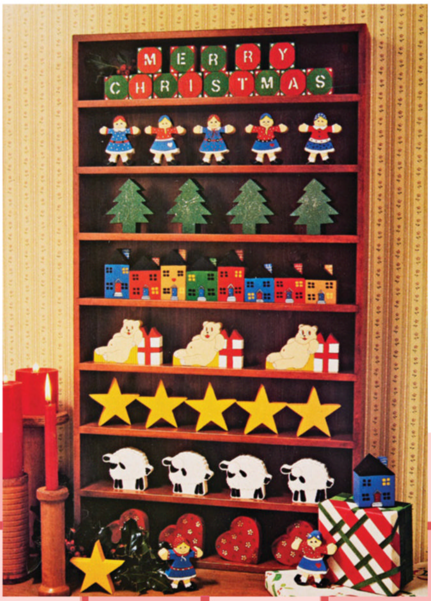
Sand each 1½-inch pine block with medium- and then fine-grit sandpaper; wipe off sanding dust. Using a foam brush, paint each block with white acrylic paint; let dry.

Place transfer paper with graphite side down on a pine block. Lay desired pattern from *Pattern Pack* on top of paper. Trace over the pattern lines using a pencil or a stylus to transfer the pattern. Repeat for each desired ornament.

Cut out each ornament using a band saw. Referring to photos for color placement and the pattern lines, paint each block; let dry.

FOR PINE TREES

Once the pine trees are dry, dip an old toothbrush in white paint. While holding the toothbrush near the trees, gently run your thumb down the bristles to splatter paint on the trees; let dry.



TOTAL PACKAGE

shown on *page 29*

MATERIALS

☐ Assorted print fabrics
☐ Matching sewing threads
☐ Assorted ribbons and trims

Cut fabrics into rectangles in a variety of sizes. Fold one long edge under ¼ inch; stitch. This is the bag top.

Beginning 3 inches from the bottom, topstitch lengths of ribbon and trim across the rectangle; cut ends flush with side edges.

With right sides together, stitch short rectangle sides together. Center the seam in the back, then stitch the bottom edges together.

To shape a flat bottom, at one corner match bottom seam line to side seam line; stitch 1 inch from point across corner. Repeat with remaining corner.

To close the gift bag, gather the fabric at the top and tie a length of ribbon in a tight bow around the gathers.

STITCH IN TIME

shown on *page 30*

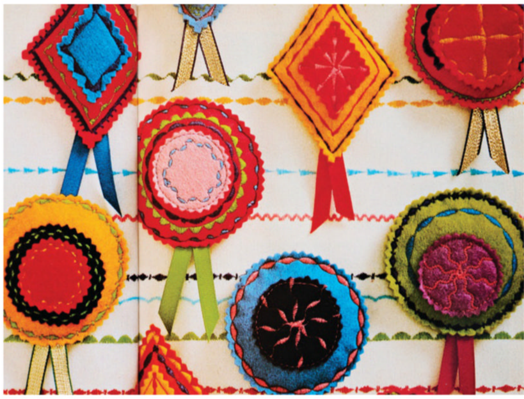
MATERIALS

☐ Felt in various colors
☐ Pinking shears
☐ Sewing machine with decorative stitch settings
☐ Contrasting threads
☐ Ribbons
☐ Polyester fiberfill
☐ Sewing needle and matching thread

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack;* cut out. Referring to photo, trace patterns the number of times needed onto desired felt colors. Cut out shapes using pinking shears.

Layer the inset circles or diamonds on top of desired ornament front pieces. Topstitch just inside the edge of the inset shapes through all felt layers. Using the built-in stitches available on your sewing machine, add rows of decorative stitches in contrasting threads to the shapes as desired.

Layer ornament front and back pieces with wrong sides facing. Insert two short lengths of ribbon between the layers at the bottom. Topstitch the pieces together, catching the ribbon ends in the seam; leave an opening. Stuff the ornament with polyester fiberfill; stitch the opening closed.



SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND

shown on *page 30*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 2—6½-inch squares of muslin
- ☐ 2—6½-inch squares of desired print fabrics
- ☐ Sewing needle and matching thread
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ Wooden beads: red
- ☐ 10-inch length of red cording

STITCH AND FOLD FABRIC

Fold one muslin square in half; stitch a ¼-inch seam on two sides as shown **(Diagram 1).** Press seams open; clip corners at fold. Repeat with other 6½-inch muslin square.

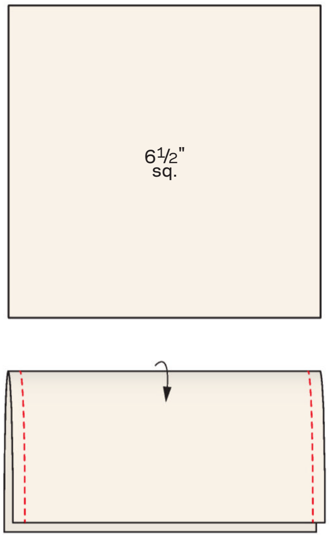


DIAGRAM 1

Bring ends of seams (along open edges) together, aligning the seams. Stitch across remaining raw edges, leaving an opening for turning **(Diagram 2).** Repeat with other square.

Turn squares right sides out; slip-stitch opening closed.

Fold corners of squares **(Diagram 3);** pin in place. Tack corners at center.

Hand-stitch the squares together along one side **(Diagram 4).**

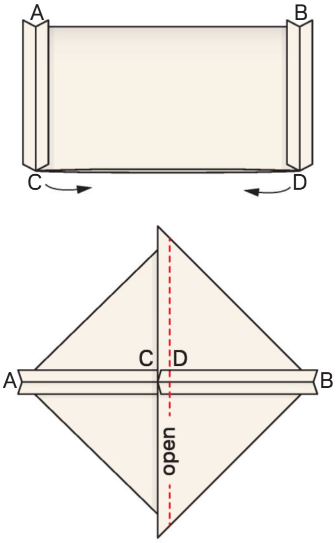


DIAGRAM 2

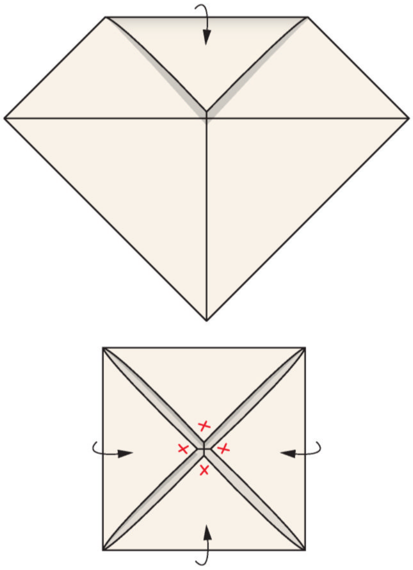


DIAGRAM 3

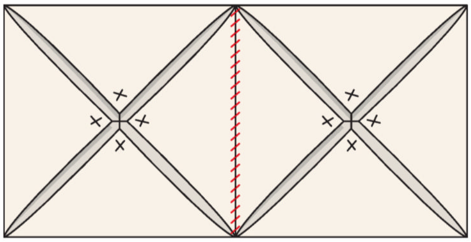


DIAGRAM 4

Fold squares with wrong sides facing; stitch together along opposite sides to make a tube **(Diagram 5).**

Turn the tube, aligning the seams in the front and back center **(Diagram 6).** Stitch one open edge closed.

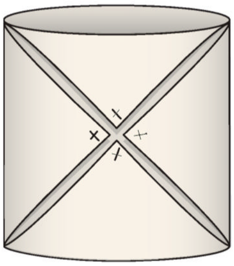


DIAGRAM 5

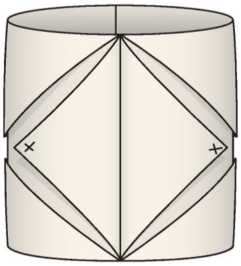


DIAGRAM 6

FINISH THE ORNAMENT

The diamond shape in the center of the window becomes the window to frame the desired print square. Insert polyester fiberfill into the ornament **(Diagram 7)**; stitch the opening closed.

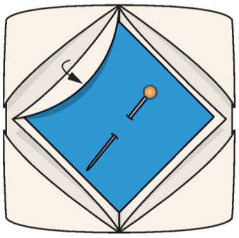


DIAGRAM 7

Center the 6½-inch print square in the window; pin in place. Roll muslin edge of window around raw edges of print and blindstitch in place **(Diagram 8).** Repeat for other side of ornament.

Stitch a bead to each center side edge. Fold cording in half to form a loop; knot the cord ends together. Stitch the knot to the top of the ornament for a hanging loop.

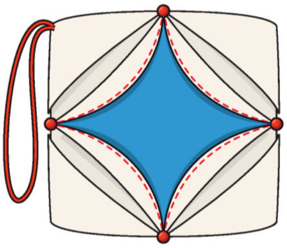


DIAGRAM 8

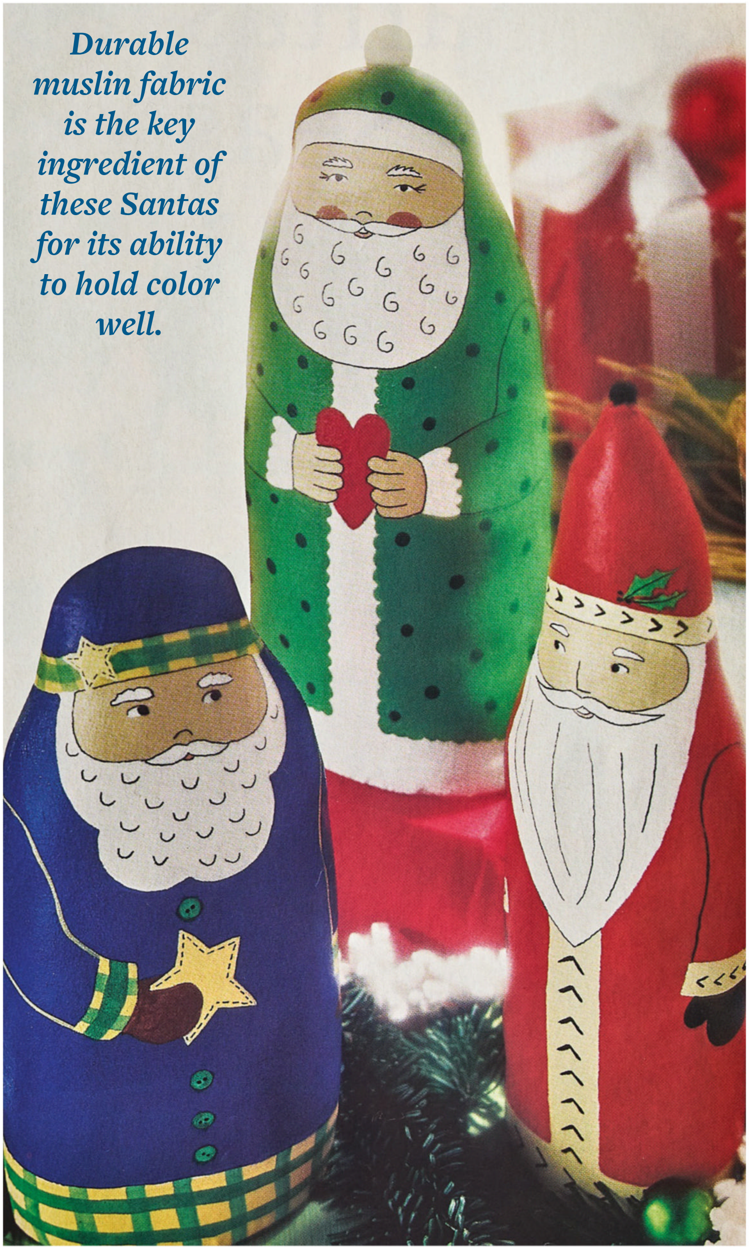
1990s

All things country defined the ’90s, and handmade was all the rage. We scoured the archives to bring you some of our favorites brimming with timeless techniques and homespun charm.

COUNTRY CHARM

Spruce up your mantel with these soon-to-be heirlooms (*above*) that can be personalized for each member of the family. Use just one stocking pattern for all three, but mix and match a variety of print fabrics and choose either a reindeer or snowman appliqué to customize them.

DESIGNER: **JACKIE WHEATON**



Durable muslin fabric is the key ingredient of these Santas for its ability to hold color well.

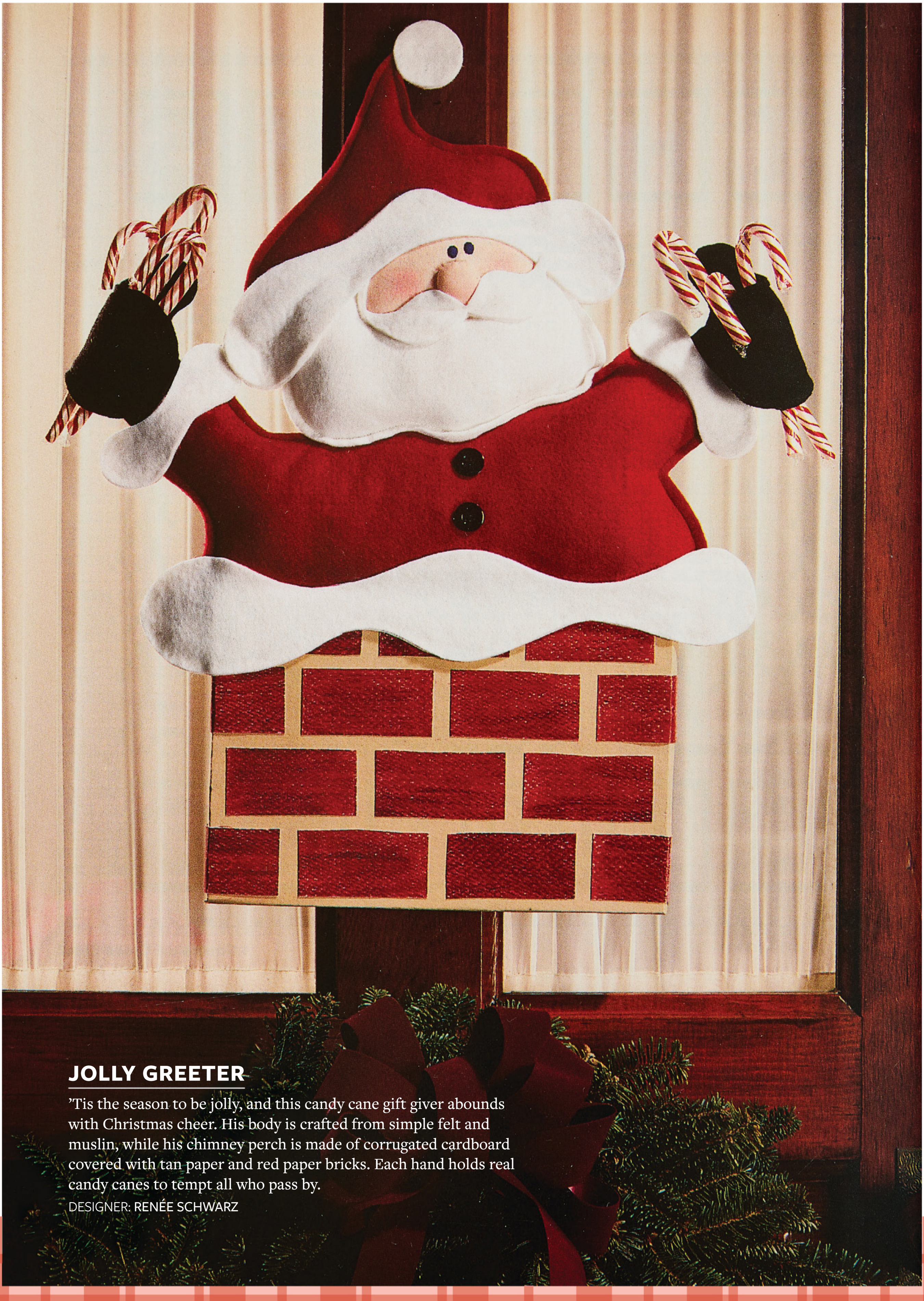
SANTA FOLK

This folk-art trio (*above*) is bringing back the trends of the 1990s with simply sewn muslin shapes and hand-painted details. A flat cardboard base inserted into the bottom helps each one stand tall on a table. All our Santas wear coats, hats, and mittens in primary hues, but you can customize yours with any color scheme you wish.

DESIGNER: **CONNIE MATRICARDI**

cover star

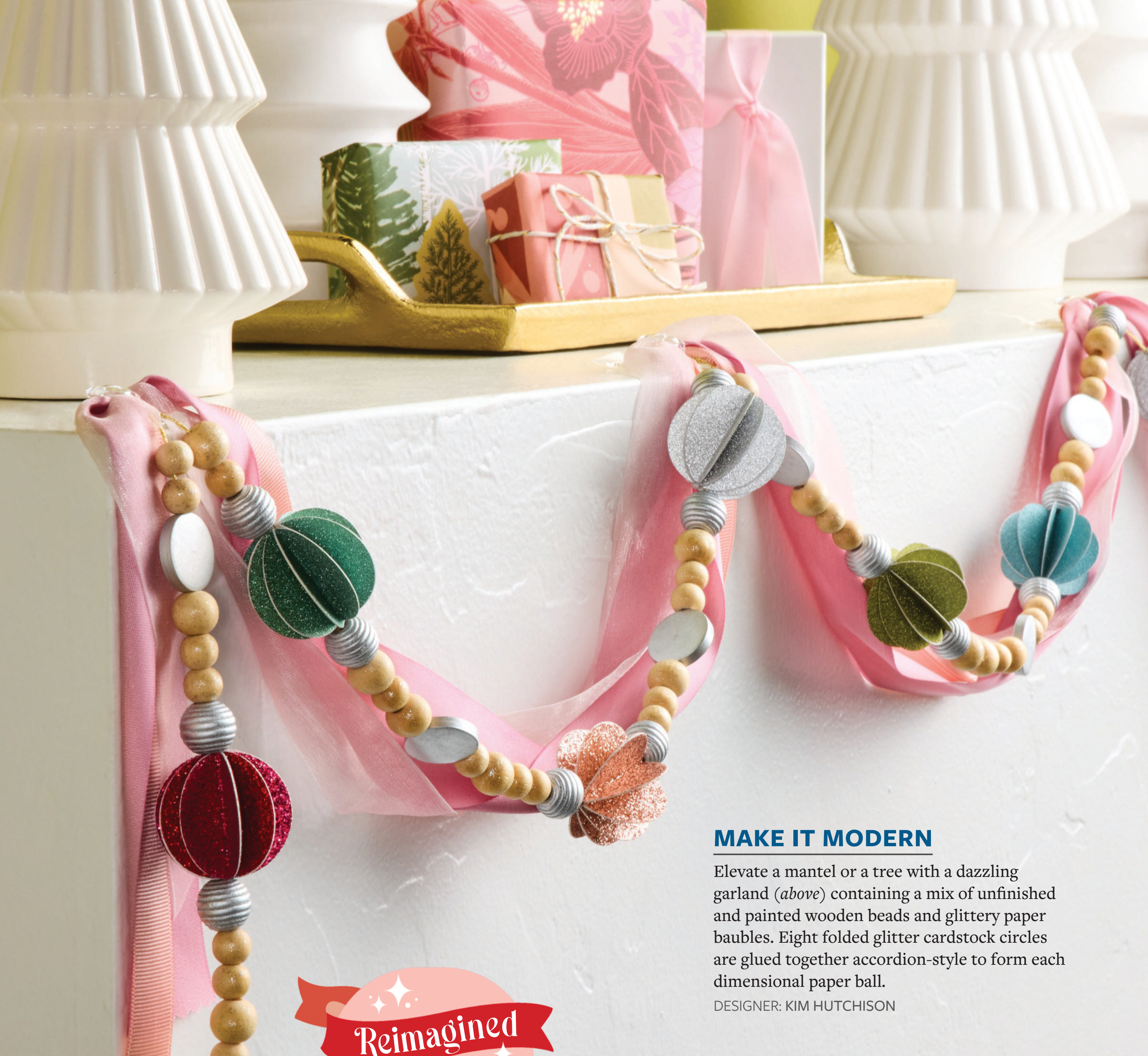
Better Homes and Gardens
Holiday Crafts
47 Projects
for Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa!
Start Your Holiday Crafting NOW!
Stockings • Nutcrackers • Santas • Ornaments



JOLLY GREETER

’Tis the season to be jolly, and this candy cane gift giver abounds with Christmas cheer. His body is crafted from simple felt and muslin, while his chimney perch is made of corrugated cardboard covered with tan paper and red paper bricks. Each hand holds real candy canes to tempt all who pass by.

DESIGNER: RENÉE SCHWARZ



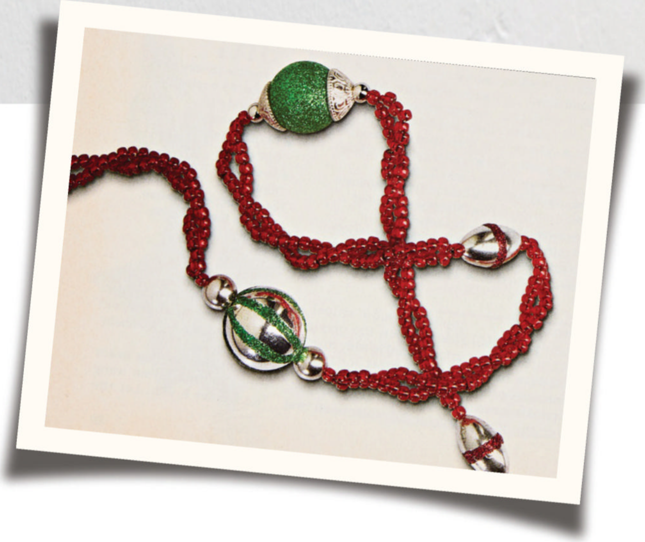
MAKE IT MODERN

Elevate a mantel or a tree with a dazzling garland (*above*) containing a mix of unfinished and painted wooden beads and glittery paper baubles. Eight folded glitter cardstock circles are glued together accordion-style to form each dimensional paper ball.

DESIGNER: **KIM HUTCHISON**

Reimagined

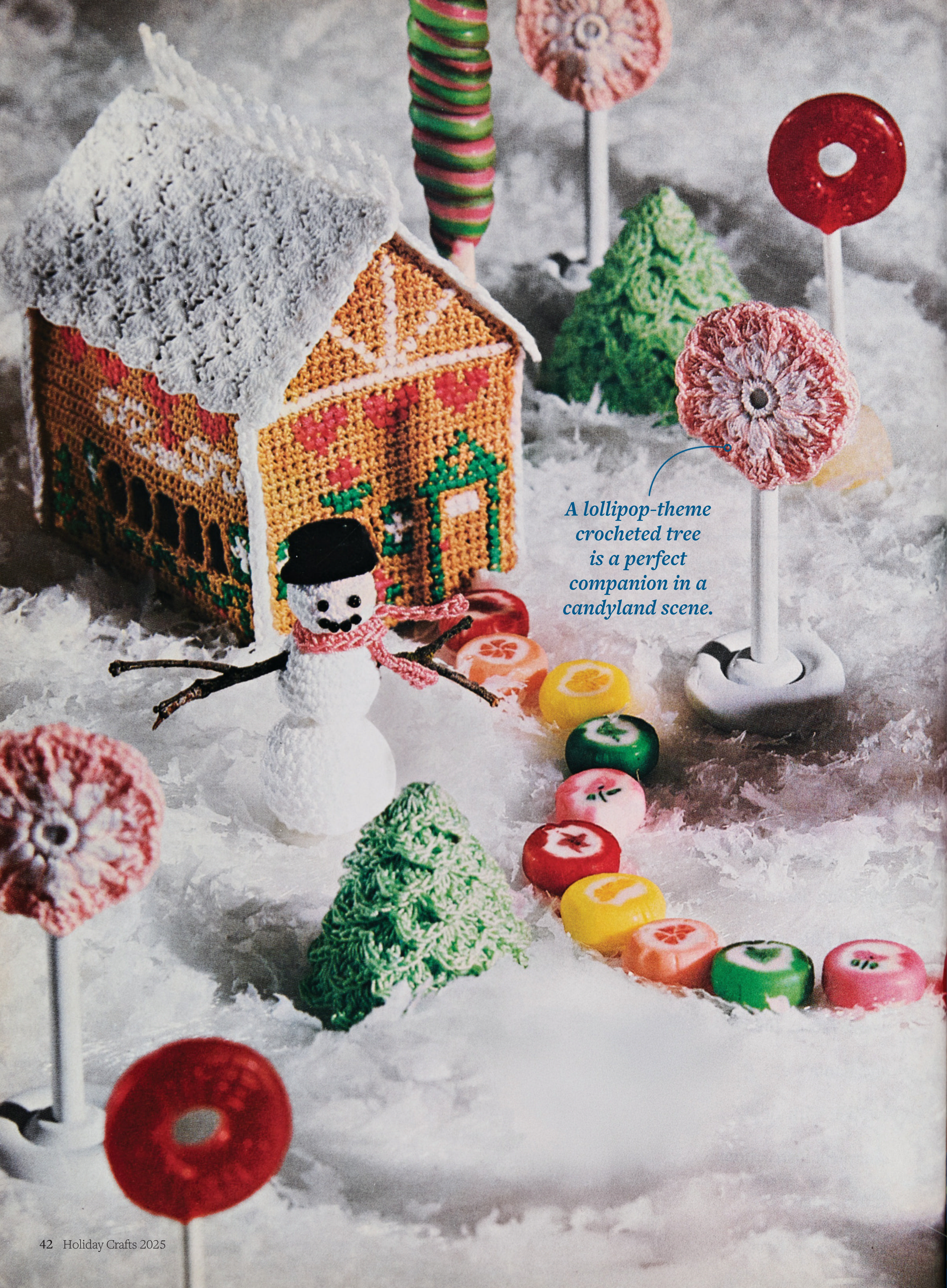
WOOD BEADS PAIRED WITH SPARKLY PAPER DISCS SIMPLIFY AND MODERNIZE.



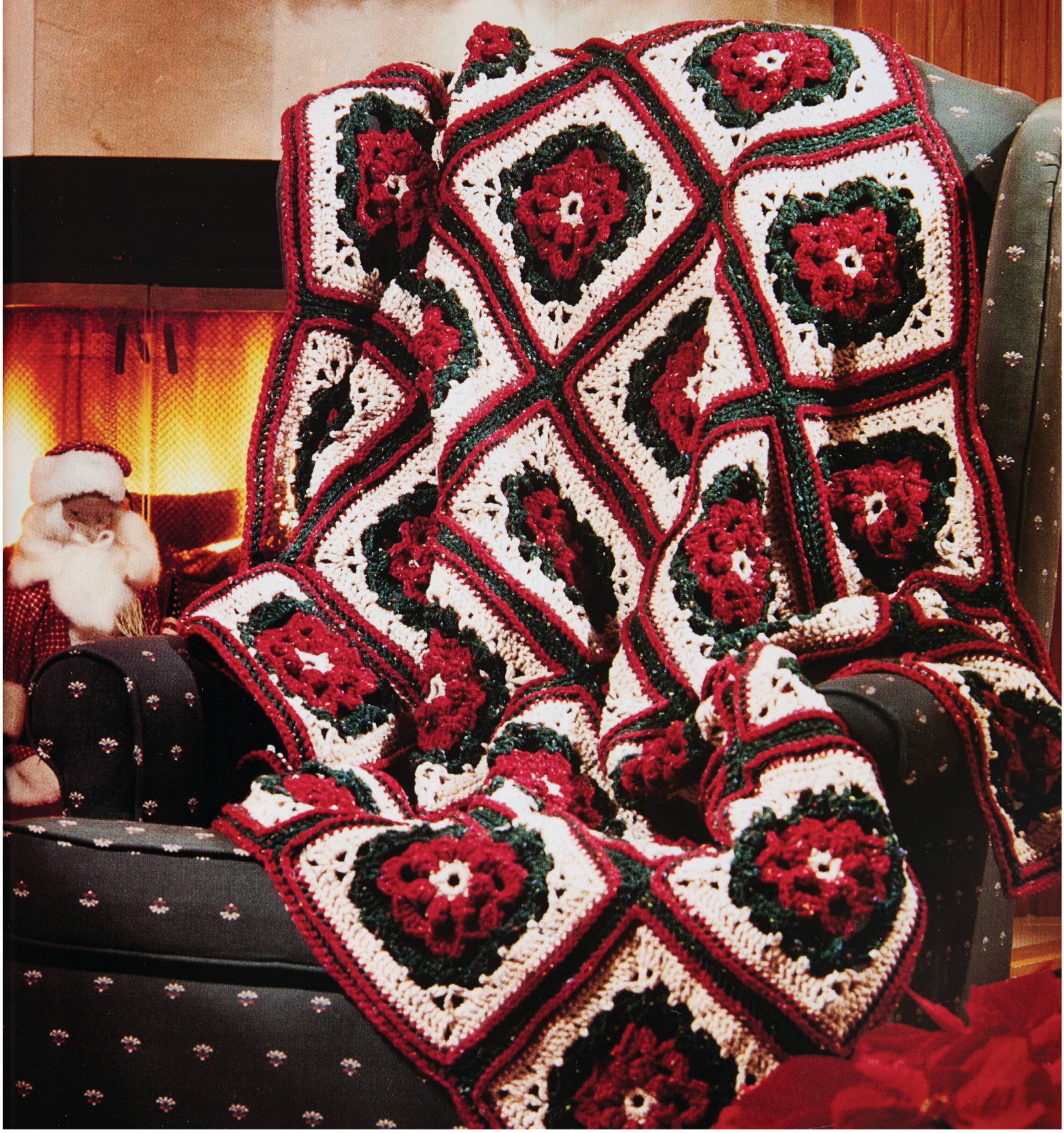
STRUNG WITH CARE

A stunning beaded garland in festive reds and greens (*right*) adds a handmade twist to any holiday display. The swirled small bead sections are separated by an arrangement of silver accent beads embellished with glue lines and sprinkled with green and red glitter.

DESIGNER: **DAWN ANDERSON**



A lollipop-theme crocheted tree is a perfect companion in a candyland scene.



MERRY LITTLE VILLAGE

There's something about Christmas miniatures that makes us yearn for the holidays of yesteryear. This nostalgic scene (*left*) is complete with a crocheted "gingerbread" house with snow-dusted roof and whimsical trees and lollipops lining the street. The crocheted trees are made with pastel thread and stiffened to keep their shape. Since most of these sweet treats won't get nibbled, you can display them year after year.

DESIGNER: KAREN TAYLOR

COZY CHRISTMAS

Chase away winter's chill with a good book and a cozy afghan (*above*) that works up easily with just one repeating granny square. Rediscover the nostalgic shades of hunter green and burgundy—or customize with your own color scheme. Each square uses popcorn stitches around the center to add texture. When the squares are complete, stitch them together in five rows, then finish with a simple crocheted border.

DESIGNER: HÉLÈNE RUSH

SWEET TRADITIONS

Mix up the dough for this nostalgic decorating centerpiece. Our 1990 version declared that "Grandma was ready for any little 'sweet tooth' that happens to call." Grandma's big secret was her gingerbread attached to a wooden house frame. With her apron bib carrying the theme, Grandma's creation was surely still a hit.

DESIGNER: **BARBARA HOOVER**

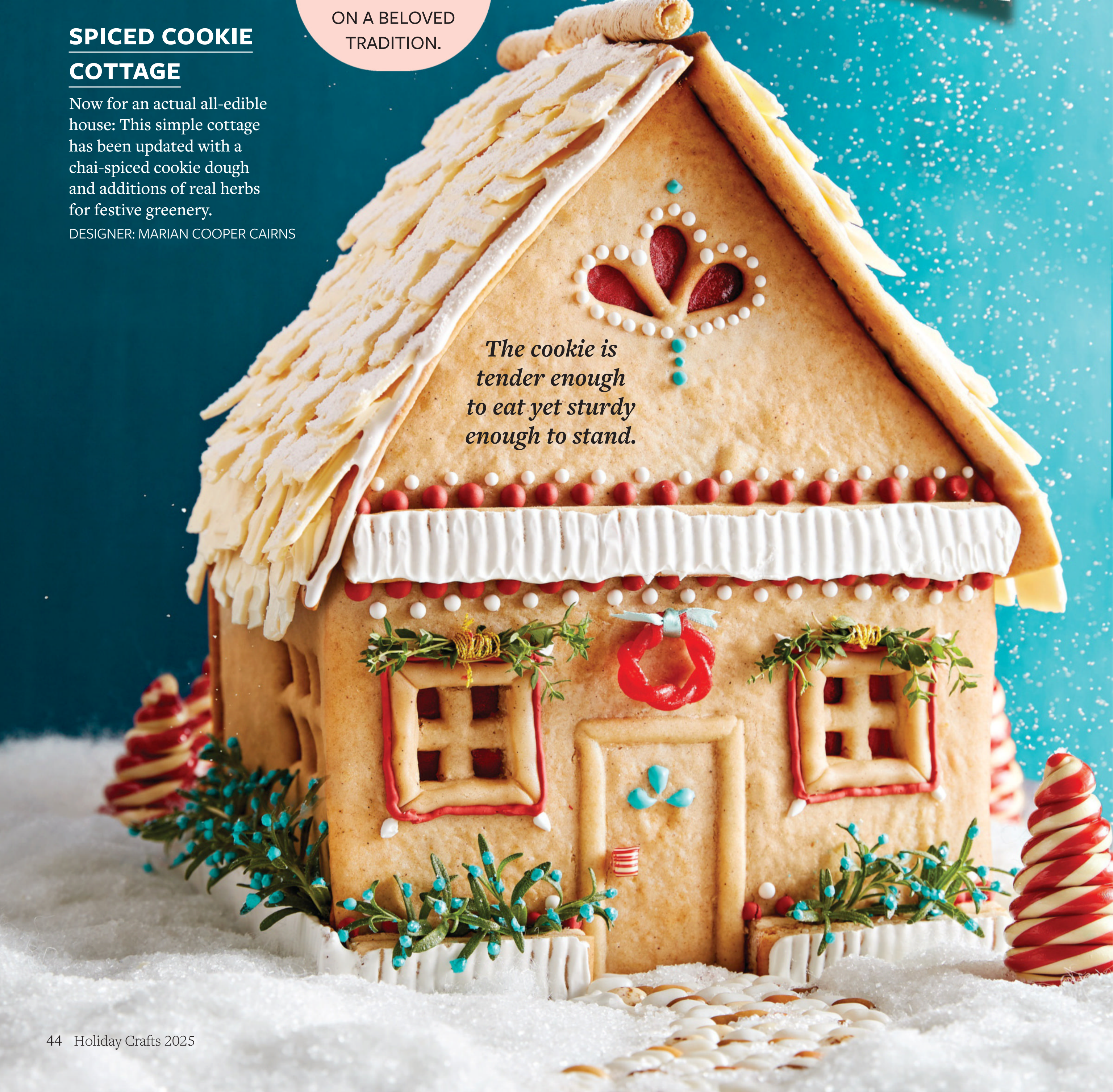
Reimagined

SPICES AND FRESH HERBS BAKE UP A SWEET TAKE ON A BELOVED TRADITION.

SPICED COOKIE COTTAGE

Now for an actual all-edible house: This simple cottage has been updated with a chai-spiced cookie dough and additions of real herbs for festive greenery.

DESIGNER: **MARIAN COOPER CAIRNS**



The cookie is tender enough to eat yet sturdy enough to stand.

building materials

Gingerbread houses featured on our pages have been inspiring family projects since the 1930s. Skip the prefab kit this year and bake our cottage blueprint, then gather your crew to decorate with items found in the candy or baking aisle. If you build it, they will come.

THE ROOF

For rooftop shingles, spread melted candy coating in a thick layer on a baking sheet lined with foil. When set, break into shingle shapes and attach with Royal Icing.

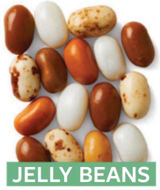
THE WALK

We paved the walk with cobblestone-color jelly beans and a mortar of Royal Icing. Coarse white sugar shimmers like snow alongside it.

THE WREATH

A circle of twisted thin rope licorice tied with a ribbon hangs above the door. Brush with gold luster dust for added sparkle.

MELTED CANDY COATING


JELLY BEANS

RED ROPE LICORICE

FROSTED MINI WHEATS

COCOA NIBS

MILK CHOCOLATE MEDALLIONS

HEART-SHAPE GINGERSNAPS

PEANUT BRITTLE

PEPPERMINT CANDIES

GOLDEN GRAHAMS

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER CHEERIOS

GREEN APPLE GUMMY RINGS

decorating details

WINDOWS AND DOOR

Use ropes of dough to outline each window and door. After baking, pipe on string lights with Royal Icing.

WINDOW DECOR

Red fruit leather makes colorful curtains. Tie thyme branches together with fine golden twine and attach above windows.

WHITE PLANTERS AND AWNING

Cut out and attach rectangular pieces of dough. Create texture in white Royal Icing using a fork or wood skewer.

SHRUBS

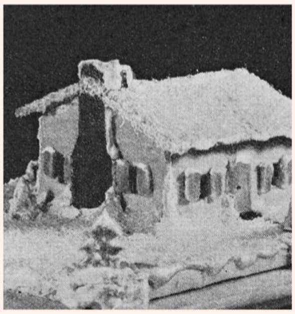
Paint rosemary tips with blue Royal Icing. Other herbs like sage and oregano would also work.

holiday houses

THROUGH THE DECADES

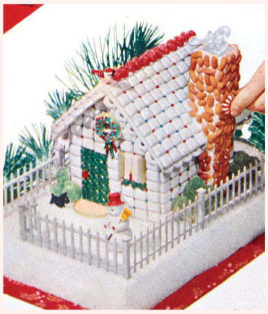
History taught us there's no wrong way to build a gingerbread house.

1936



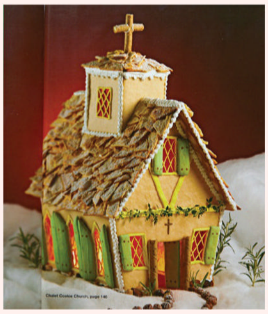
Editors focused on architectural details over decorations for this house.

1951



Cardboard cutouts covered with candy and gum replaced baked dough.

2006



This church got a sugar reduction—less candy, more whole grain, and fresh finishes.

Instructions

COUNTRY CHARM

shown on *page 38*

Stockings are 18 inches long.

MATERIALS (for each stocking)

- ☐ ½ yard of solid, dot, small plaid, or print fabric (front, back)
- ☐ 9-inch square of coordinating plaid or striped fabric (heel, toe)
- ☐ ¼ yard of coordinating holiday print fabric (cuff, loop)
- ☐ Matching sewing thread
- ☐ ½ yard muslin (lining)
- ☐ ½ yard batting
- ☐ Disappearing-ink fabric marking pen
- ☐ Quilting thread: off-white
- ☐ Quilting needle
- ☐ Embroidery floss: ecru
- ☐ Embroidery needle
- ☐ White marking pencil

FOR SNOWMAN STOCKING:

- ☐ 3×12-inch scrap white fabric (snowmen appliqués)
- ☐ Embroidery floss: black, orange

FOR REINDEER STOCKING:

- ☐ 5×6-inch piece brown fabric (reindeer appliqué)
- ☐ 6×10-inch piece tear-away stabilizer

Note: Yardages are based on 45-inch-wide cotton fabrics. All patterns include a ¼-inch seam allowance. Sew with right sides together, using a ¼-inch seam, unless otherwise noted.

PREPARE THE STOCKING PIECES

Trace the patterns in the *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace patterns onto corresponding fabrics the number of times indicated; cut out. Cut at a 3½×8½-inch strip for the hanging loop.

Sew cuff to stocking front. With right side up and using the pieced stocking as a pattern, cut a matching lining and batting piece from muslin. With right side facing down, use the pieced stocking as a pattern on the right side of designated fabric to cut the stocking back, a muslin lining piece, and a batting piece. **Note:** If preferred, the stocking back can be pieced to match the stocking front. Remember to reverse the pattern pieces.

ADD THE APPLIQUÉS

SNOWMEN: Using a disappearing-ink fabric marking pen, draw faces on the two small circles and button dots on the two large circles. Go to *page 94* to see stitch diagrams. Using one strand of orange floss, satin-stitch the carrot noses. Using two strands of black floss, add French knots for each eye and button.

With right sides together, layer each embroidered circle with a plain circle; machine-sew together, leaving an opening for turning. Trim seam allowances to ⅞ inch; clip the curves. Turn right sides out and slip-stitch the openings closed.

Referring to dashed lines on the stocking pattern, place circles on stocking front; pin. Using two strands of black floss and short running stitches, hand-sew snowmen to stocking ¼ inch inside the circles.

REINDEER: Referring to dashed lines on pattern, baste reindeer to cuff. Place tear-away stabilizer behind cuff. Set machine for a close, narrow zigzag stitch. Use contrasting thread to machine-appliqué reindeer in place. Tear off stabilizer.

HEEL AND TOE: Referring to patterns, press under ¼ inch on the heel and toe cutting lines. Baste heel and toe to stocking front, matching outer edges. Use quilting thread to hand-sew short running stitches ¹⁄₁₆ inch from pressed edge of heel and toe.

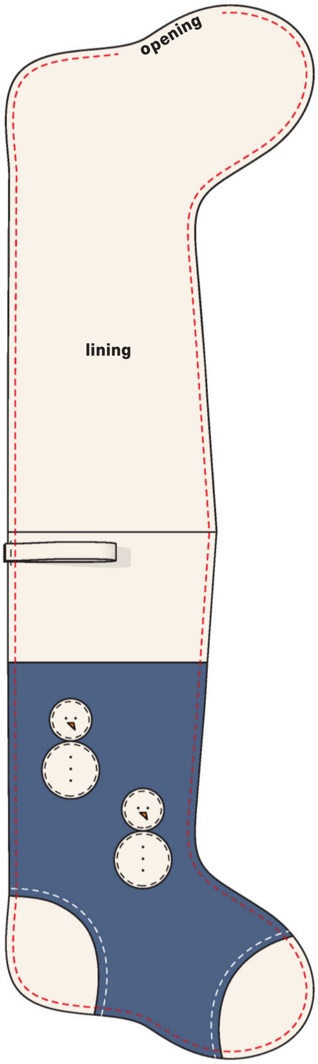
QUILT THE STOCKINGS

Baste batting behind stocking front. With quilting thread, quilt ⅛ inch outside the snowman appliqués, the heel and toe, and on both sides of cuff seam. On striped fabrics, quilt along the stripes as desired.

ASSEMBLE THE STOCKINGS

Place matching lining on top of quilted stocking front. Sew across top edge; open up as shown in the **Assembly Diagram,** *below*; press. Baste batting behind stocking back. Sew stocking back to lining same as for front.

For hanging loop, press the 3½×8½-inch strip in half lengthwise. Press under both long edges ¼ inch; topstitch closed.



ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

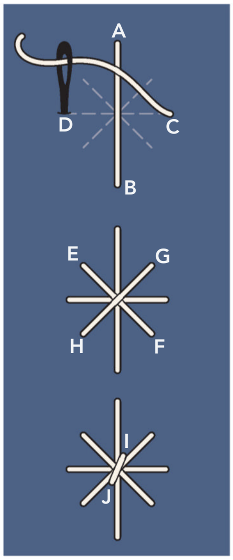
Matching short edges, fold strip in half to form a loop. Align the short edges of the loop flush with the raw edge of the stocking front; baste the loop to the stocking as shown in the **Assembly Diagram.**

With right sides together, pin lining/stocking units together matching stockings, linings, and seams. Machine-sew around lining/stocking units, leaving a 3- to 4-inch opening in foot of lining. Clip curves. Turn right side out through lining. Turn in raw edges; blindstitch opening closed. Tuck lining into stocking; press.

EMBROIDER THE SNOWFLAKES

Referring to the photo (*below*), use a white pencil to randomly mark snowflake dots on both the stocking front and back, spacing the dots about 1½ inches apart.

Using six strands of ecru embroidery floss, stitch a star stitch for each snowflake, being careful to only stitch through the stocking front or back.



STAR STITCH DIAGRAM

SANTA FOLK

shown on *page 39*

MATERIALS

- ☐ ¼ yard of muslin
- ☐ Matching sewing thread
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ 8×10-inch piece of heavyweight cardboard
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Acrylic paints: off-white, white, desired skin tone, sand, red, black, brown, dark green, kelly green, light yellow, light gold, royal blue
- ☐ Assorted paintbrushes
- ☐ Graphite paper
- ☐ Black fine-tip permanent marking pen
- ☐ Acrylic varnish: satin finish
- ☐ 9×12-inch piece of cream felt
- ☐ Pom-poms: one black, one white

Trace the patterns in the *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. (To trace the half patterns, fold the paper, place the fold on the dashed line, and trace. Flip the folded tracing paper over, and trace the lines onto the other side.) Patterns don't include seam allowances.

CONSTRUCT THE SANTA DOLLS

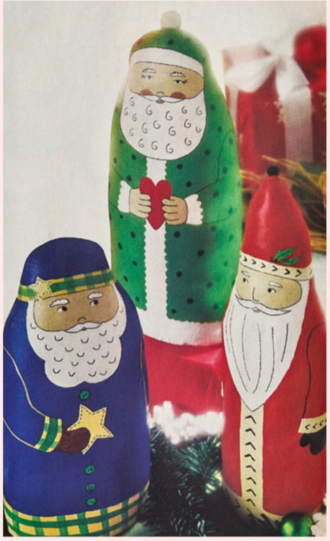
Fold the muslin in half. Trace one of each body onto the folded muslin, leaving at least ¼ inch of space between the tracings. Pin the muslin layers together. Sew on the traced lines, leaving the bottom edge of each body open.

Trim the excess muslin along the bottom of the body to ½ inch beyond the traced line. Trim the excess muslin around the sewn lines to ¼ inch. Clip the curves; turn right side out. Stuff the bodies firmly with polyester fiberfill.

From the cardboard, cut one base for each Santa. Insert the base into the opening. Glue the open edge of the muslin body to the bottom of the base; let dry.

PAINT THE SANTA DOLLS

To seal the fabric and make a smooth surface to transfer the patterns, paint each doll off-white; let dry. Use graphite paper to transfer the face, beard, and clothing lines onto each doll. Do not transfer the clothing details or facial features yet. Use a pencil and the patterns to continue the hat and clothing lines to the back of the figure.



RED SANTA: Paint the beard and mustache white. Paint the face desired skin tone. Paint the fur trim on the hat and robe sand. Paint the robe and hat red. Paint the mittens black. Let dry. Paint the holly leaves kelly green and the Vs on the fur trim black.

Transfer the facial details. Paint the eyebrows and eyes white, and the mouth desired skin tone. Referring to the photo, *above,* use the black marking pen to draw or outline the holly leaves, holly berries, hat trim sleeves, face, eyebrows, eyes, nose, mustache, mouth, beard, and beard lines.

BLUE SANTA: Paint the beard and mustache white. Paint the face desired skin tone. Paint the stars light yellow. Paint the band at the bottom of the hat, sleeves, and robe light gold. Paint the buttons kelly green. Paint the robe royal blue. Paint the mitten brown. Let dry. Paint the stripes on the bands kelly green and outline the sleeves with light gold. Let dry.

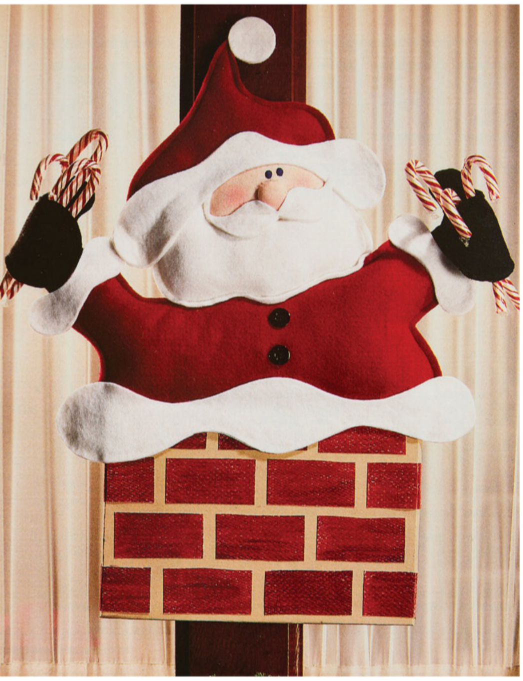
Transfer the facial details. Paint the eyebrows and eyes white. Paint the mouth desired skin tone. Referring to the photo, use the marking pen to outline the face, eyebrows, eyes, nose, mustache, mouth, beard, beard lines, dots on buttons, and stitch lines on stars.

GREEN SANTA: Paint the beard, mustache, and fur trim on the hat and robe white. Paint the face desired skin tone. Paint the heart red. Paint the robe kelly green. When the robe is dry, randomly paint the dark green dots.

Transfer the facial details. Paint the eyebrows and eyes white. Paint the cheeks and mouth desired skin tone. Use the marking pen to draw or outline the fur trim, face, eyebrows, eyes, nose, mustache, mouth, beard, beard lines, sleeves, and hands.

FINISH THE SANTA DOLLS

Apply varnish to the painted surfaces of each doll. Trace around the base of each doll onto cream felt; cut out slightly smaller than the traced lines. Glue the felt pieces to the bottom of doll. Glue the black pom-pom to the tip of the red Santa's hat. Glue the white pom-pom to the tip of the green Santa's hat.



JOLLY GREETER

shown on *page 40*

Santa, including chimney, is 21 inches high.

MATERIALS

- ☐ 15×25-inch piece of red felt (coat and hat)
- ☐ 15×30-inch piece of white felt (beard, mustache, trim, and snow)
- ☐ 10×15-inch piece of black felt (hand)
- ☐ 6×10-inch piece of muslin (face)
- ☐ Two ¾-inch-diameter black buttons
- ☐ Matching sewing threads
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ Embroidery floss: blue
- ☐ 6-inch length of ¾-inch-wide black hook-and-loop tape
- ☐ Cotton swab
- ☐ Powder blush
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Corrugated cardboard: two 7½×11-inch pieces (chimney) and one 17×22-inch piece (backing)
- ☐ 15×16-inch piece of beige paper (mortar)
- ☐ 9×9-inch square of textured red paper or white paper colored with various red and brown colored pencils (bricks)
- ☐ Tracing paper
- ☐ 8-inch length of ribbon (hanger)
- ☐ Candy canes

PREPARE THE PATTERNS

Patterns include ¼-inch seam allowances. Sew felt pieces with wrong sides together, leaving seam allowances exposed. Sew face with right sides together.

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace patterns onto appropriate felt or muslin the number of times indicated on patterns; cut out shapes.

SEW THE SANTA

Sew hat pieces together, leaving bottom open as indicated on the pattern; lightly stuff with fiberfill. Sew two black buttons to front of coat. Sew coat pieces together, leaving bottom and sleeve edges open. Lightly stuff coat with polyester fiberfill; sew bottom edge closed.

Cut hook-and-loop tape into four 1¼-inch-long pieces. Pull tape apart. Referring to the pattern for placement, sew the tape to the palm and finger areas of each hand. Sew hand pieces together in pairs, leaving wrists open. Lightly stuff fingers and thumbs of both hands with fiberfill. Leave palms unstuffed, but lightly stuff wrists. Insert wrist edges of hands into sleeves of coat; whipstitch in place.

Sew the face pieces together, leaving an opening as indicated; lightly stuff. Sew opening closed. Hand-stitch running stitches around the edge of the nose circle. Place a small ball of fiberfill in the center of the circle; pull thread tightly to form nose. Slip-stitch the nose in position on the face.

Using three strands of blue floss, satin-stitch the eyes. Backstitch an outline around each eye.

Sew the beard pieces together, leaving an opening as indicated. Lightly stuff beard; sew opening closed.

Hand-sew the beard to the face, referring to the pattern for placement. Insert the face/beard into the open end of hat and whipstitch in place. Sew remaining hat opening closed.

Glue a hat trim piece to both the front and back of hat, overlapping Santa's face and beard and matching outside edges; let dry. In the same manner, glue wrist trims to Santa, attaching pieces to the front and back of each wrist. Glue pom-pom to both the front and back of the tip of the hat.

Use a cotton swab to apply powder blush to Santa's cheeks and nose. Glue mustache to face; allow to dry. Overlap beard on coat; sew in place.

MAKE THE CHIMNEY

Glue two layers of 7½×11-inch cardboard together, securing the bottom of Santa's coat in between the layers on an 11-inch side.

Cover the cardboard by gluing the beige paper and wrapping it around the sides. For chimney bricks, cut red paper into fourteen 1½×3-inch rectangles. Referring to the photo for placement, glue bricks to chimney, wrapping some around the sides.

Glue snow pieces to the front and the back of the body and chimney, matching outside edges; let dry.

To make backing, fold down Santa's hands and fasten the hook-and-loop tape. Trace around entire Santa and chimney onto a large piece of cardboard. Cut out ½ inch inside traced line. For hanging loop, cut two slits in cardboard 1 inch apart and centered 5 inches from the top. Insert the ribbon through slits; tie. Glue Santa in chimney to cardboard backing. Slide candy canes into each of his hands.

STRUNG WITH CARE

shown on *page 41*

MATERIALS

☐ Four 25-millimeter round silver-washed beads
☐ Crafts glue
☐ Ultra-fine glitter: red and emerald
☐ Eight 22×14-millimeter oval silver-washed beads
☐ Five 20-millimeter round wood beads
☐ Acrylic paint: green
☐ Artists brushes
☐ Decoupage medium (such as Mod Podge)
☐ 24-gauge silver spool wire
☐ Ten 6-millimeter round silver-washed beads
☐ Eight 10-millimeter round silver-washed beads
☐ Ten 15×6-millimeter silver-washed bead caps
☐ 800 size 6 red silver-lined beads
☐ 64 size 10 or 11 red silver-lined seed beads
☐ Chain-nose jewelry pliers
☐ 18-gauge wire and wire cutters

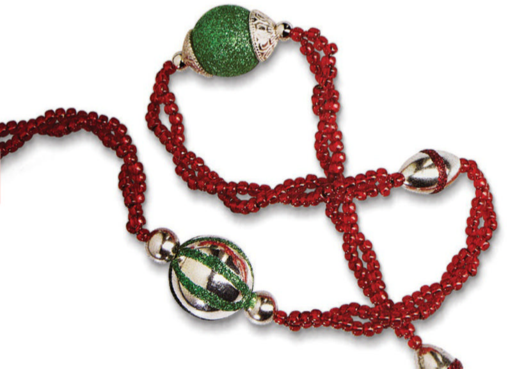
PREPARE THE BEADS

Apply four evenly spaced stripes of glue around a 25-millimeter round silver bead from hole to hole. Sprinkle emerald glitter over the glue. Apply four more stripes of glue between the previous stripes; sprinkle with emerald glitter. Repeat for the remaining 25-millimeter beads.

Apply a stripe of glue around the center of an oval bead. Sprinkle the bead with red glitter. Repeat for the remaining oval beads.

Paint the wood beads green. Let dry. Apply glue to each green-painted bead, and sprinkle with emerald glitter.

When the glue is completely dry, apply decoupage medium to all of the glittered areas to prevent the glitter from shedding.



STRING THE BEADS

Cut two 10-inch lengths of 24-gauge wire. Thread a 6-millimeter silver bead onto both lengths of wire, followed by a bead cap, a green-glittered bead, another bead cap, and another 6-millimeter silver bead. Slide the beads toward the center. Tape the wires to work surface just beyond the bead cluster.

Thread one size 6 red bead onto both lengths of wire. Then separate the wires and thread a red seed bead onto each wire, followed by about 4 inches of size 6 red beads. Twist the beaded wires around each other twice. Thread a seed bead onto each wire, then insert both wires through a size 6 bead.

Insert both wires through an oval bead. Repeat to create another section.

Next, insert a 10-millimeter silver bead, a green-and-silver striped bead, and another 10-millimeter silver bead onto the doubled wires. Add another section of red beads as described before.

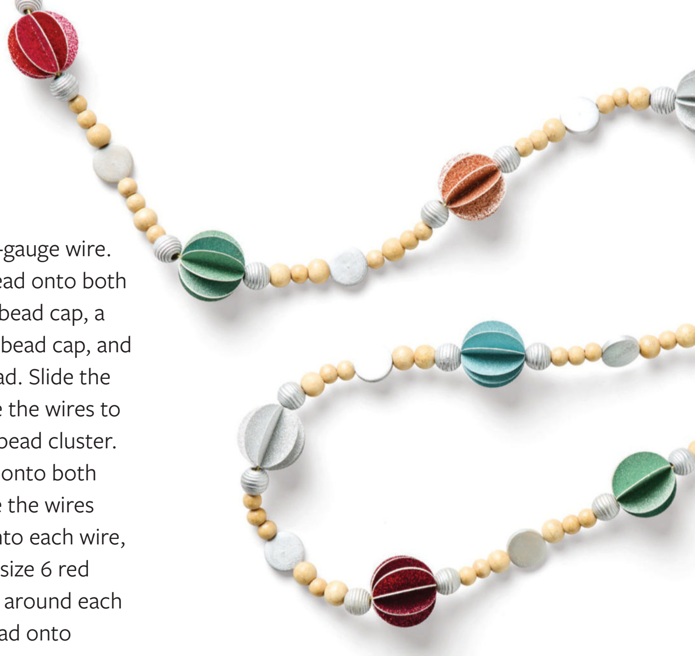
Insert both wires through an oval bead, then add another section of red beads.

Insert a 6-millimeter silver bead onto both lengths of wire, followed by a bead cap, a green-glittered bead, another bead cap, and another 6-millimeter silver bead. Add another section of red beads. Insert the wires through an oval bead, then add another section of twisted red beads.

Continue to add an oval bead, followed by a green striped bead cluster, another oval bead, and a green-glittered bead cluster, placing sections of twisted red beads between the accent beads.

Bead the remaining half of the garland in the same manner. At the ends, insert both wires back through the bead cap, the green-glittered bead, and the second bead cap. Twist the ends of the wires several times around the base wires between the inner bead cap and the 6-millimeter bead. Cut the wire ends to about ⅜ inch long, and push them back into the inner bead cap using jewelry pliers.

Drying Tip: To make it easier to embellish the beads, slightly bend a 6-inch length of 18-gauge wire 1½ inches from the end. Position a bead on the end of the wire. Slightly bend the excess wire at the other end in the opposite direction to hold the bead in place. Insert the wire in a piece of foam until the glue dries.



MAKE IT MODERN

shown on *page 41*

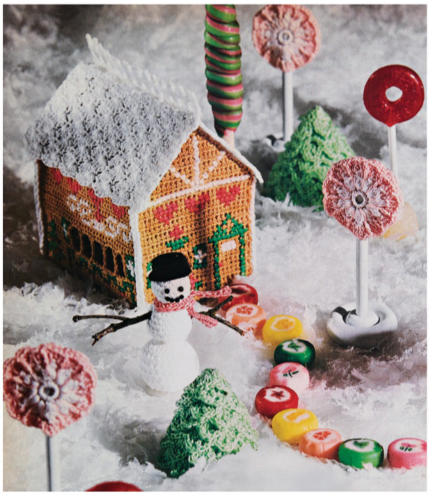
MATERIALS

☐ 30-millimeter circle punch
☐ Glitter cardstock: red, green, silver, blue
☐ Glue stick
☐ Assorted wooden beads: round, flat round, ribbed round
☐ Bamboo skewers
☐ Small cardboard box (if spray painting)
☐ Spray or acrylic paint: silver glitter
☐ Foam paintbrush (optional)
☐ Cording
☐ Embroidery needle

Punch eight circles from one color of glitter cardstock. Fold each circle in half. Glue half of one folded circle to another folded circle, aligning the fold. Continue gluing folded circles to the previous circle until all eight circles are joined together; let dry. Open the folded circles like an accordion; glue the first and last half circles together to form a ball. Repeat with each color of glitter cardstock to make 10 to 15 paper balls.

Thread wooden beads onto skewers. If spray painting, lay the skewer across the opening of a cardboard box. Spray beads with silver glitter paint; let dry. If using acrylic paint, brush breads with acrylic silver glitter paint; let dry.

Thread embroidery needle with desired length of cording; tie a hanging loop at one end. Thread beads and paper balls onto cording as desired. Repeat pattern until desired garland length. Tie a hanging loop at the end of the garland.



MERRY LITTLE VILLAGE

shown on *page 42*

House measures 5½ inches tall and 5 inches across at widest part of roof; lollipop trees stand 4 inches tall and measure 1¾ inches at widest part; small trees are 2 inches tall; large trees are 2½ inches tall.

MATERIALS

☐ 100% cotton crochet yarn (150-yard ball): one ball each of brown, white, rose, pink
☐ Embroidery floss: white, pink, green
☐ Size 6 steel crochet hook
☐ ¼ yard of fusible interfacing
☐ 2-inch square of black felt
☐ Six small black seed beads
☐ Wood dowels: one ¼-inch diameter and one ½-inch diameter
☐ 7—1½-inch-diameter wood wheels
☐ 1-inch-diameter plastic curtain ring
☐ Scrap of foam-core board
☐ Crafts glue
☐ Rustproof T-pins
☐ Plastic wrap
☐ Tapestry needle
☐ Spray paint: white

Note: After crocheting the pieces, use a tapestry needle to carefully weave in the loose ends. When instructed to decrease (dec), insert hook in first stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and draw through all three loops on hook.

CROCHET THE HOUSE

BACK PANEL: With brown, ch 26.
Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across = 25 sc; ch 1, turn.
Row 2: Sc in first sc in each sc across; ch 1, turn. Rep Row 2 for a total of 25 rows from beg.
Row 26 and all following rows: Continue established pattern, dec 1 st each edge until 3 sts remaining; insert hook in first st, yo and pull up a lp, * insert hook in next st, yo and pull up a lp; rep from * once more, then yo and draw through all 4 lps on hook.

FRONT PANEL: Work as for Back Panel for a total of six rows.

WINDOWS: Sc in the first 4 sts, ch 1, turn. Work (4 sc, ch 1 turn) 4 times more, on last rep ch 3. Sk 3 sts, trc in next sc, ch 7, sk 3 sts, * sc in next 14 sc, ch 1, turn; rep from * 4 times more.
Row 12: Sc in first 14 sc, 3 sc in ch-7 sp, sc in trc, 3 sc in ch-3 sp, sc in last 4 sc; ch 1, turn. Work 17 rows of sc on the 25 sts, ending each row ch 1, turn. Beg with Row 26, complete as for Back Panel.

BOTTOM: With brown, ch 32.
Row 1: Dc in third ch from hook and in each ch across = 30 dc; ch 2, turn.
Row 2: Dc in second dc and each dc across, working 1 dc in turning ch; ch 2, turn. Rep Row 2 for 8 more times. Fasten off.

CORNER EDGING (make four): Cut three 24-inch strands of white thread. Working with the strands held tog, ch 15.

SIDE PANEL: With brown, ch 36.
Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and each ch across = 35 sc; ch 1, turn.
Row 2: Sc in first sc and in each sc across; ch 1, turn. Rep Row 2 four times more.

WINDOWS: Sc in the first 12 sts; ch 1, turn. Work (12 sc, ch 1, turn) 4 times more, on last rep ch 3. Sk 3 sts, trc in next sc, (ch 3, sk 3, trc in next sc) 3 times, ch 7, sk 3 sts, * sc in next 4 sc, ch 1, turn; rep from * 4 times more.
Row 12: Sc in first 4 sts, 3 sc in ch-7 sp, work sc in each trc and 3 sc in each ch-3 sp across, then sc in last 12 sc; ch 1, turn. Work 16 rows sc on the 35 sts, ending each row ch 1, turn. Sc across next row and fasten off.

SECOND SIDE PANEL: Work as for previous side through Row 6.

WINDOWS: Sc in the first 4 sc; ch 1, turn. Work (4 sc, ch 1, turn) 4 times, on last rep do not ch 1. (Ch 3, sk 3 sc, trc in next sc) 4 times, ch 7, sk 3 sc, * sc in next 12 sc, ch 1, turn; rep from * 4 times more.
Row 12: Sc in first 12 sts, 3 sc in ch-7 sp, work sc in each trc and 3 sc in each ch-3 sp across, then sc in last 4 sc; ch 1, turn. Complete as for first Side Panel.

ROOF (make two): With white, ch 45.
Row 1: Work 3 dc in third ch from hook, * sk 2 ch, sc in next ch, sk 2 ch, 5 dc in next ch = shell made; rep from * 5 times more, sk 2 ch, 3 dc in last ch; ch 1, turn.
Row 2: Sc in first st, sk 2 dc, * shell in next sc, sc in third dc of shell; rep from *, ending in third dc at end of row.
Row 3: Ch 2, 3 dc in same st, * sc in third dc of next shell, shell in next sc; rep from * across row, ending 3 dc in last sc.
Rows 4–11: Rep rows 2 and 3. After Row 11, fasten off.

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

BEG – begin
CH – chain
DC – double crochet
DTRC – double treble crochet
DEC – decrease
HDC – half double crochet
LP(S) – loop(s)
REP – repeat
SC – single crochet
SL ST – slip stitch
SP – space
ST(S) – stitch(es)
SK – skip
TOG – together
TRC – treble crochet
YO – yarn over

ROOF TRIM: With white, ch 32.

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and each ch across = 31 sc; ch 5, turn.

Row 2: * Sk 2 sc, dc in next sc, ch 2; rep from * across, ending dc in last st; ch 5, turn.

Row 3: Sl st in fifth ch from hook, * 2 sc in ch-2 sp, sc in dc, ch 5, sl st in fifth ch from hook; rep from * across. Fasten off.

CROCHET THE LOLLIPOP TREES

Note: Make a total of six trees—three dark pink and three light pink.

With white ch 5; join with a sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1: Ch 1, work 11 sc in ring, join with a sl st to first sc.

Rnd 2: Ch 3, in same st (yo, insert hook in sc and pull up a lp, yo and draw through 2 lps on hook) 4 times, yo and draw through all 5 lps on hook = cluster made; * ch 3, cluster in next sc; rep from * around. At end, join with a sl st in top of first cluster = 11 clusters. Fasten off.

Rnd 3: Attach pink in any ch-3 sp (draw up a lp, ch 1), in each ch-3 sp work 2 sc, (yo, insert hook from front to back at base between 2 clusters from Rnd 2, yo and draw up a long lp, yo and draw through 2 lps, yo and draw through last 2 lps = long dc made). At end, join with a sl st to beg ch-3. Fasten off.

CROCHET THE TREES

BASE FOR SMALL AND LARGE TREE: Draw one 5-inch-diameter and two 4-inch-diameter circles onto fusible interfacing. Mark the center of each circle; draw a straight line from center mark to one edge. Cut out the circles.

Cut along the straight line to circle center. Form a cone with each circle, overlapping ½ inch at bottom edge and tapering to a point at center. Glue in place.

SMALL TREE: With green, ch 150. * Sk 2 ch, in next ch work [hdc, dc, trc, wrap thread over hook 3 times, insert hook into ch, yo, draw up a lp, (yo, draw through 2 lps) 4 times = dtrc made, trc, dc, hdc]; rep from * to end of ch. Fasten off.

LARGE TREE: Ch 189 and work as for Small Tree.

TREE ASSEMBLY: Starting at one end, apply glue along a few inches of the straight edge of edging.

Beginning at base on cone, wrap edging around. Repeat the glue-and-wrap process, overlapping previous row about halfway up until cone is covered.

CROSS-STITCH THE PIECES

Before stiffening the pieces, follow the charts (*below*) to cross-stitch motifs on house. Use two strands of embroidery floss counting one stitch as a square.

STIFFEN THE PIECES

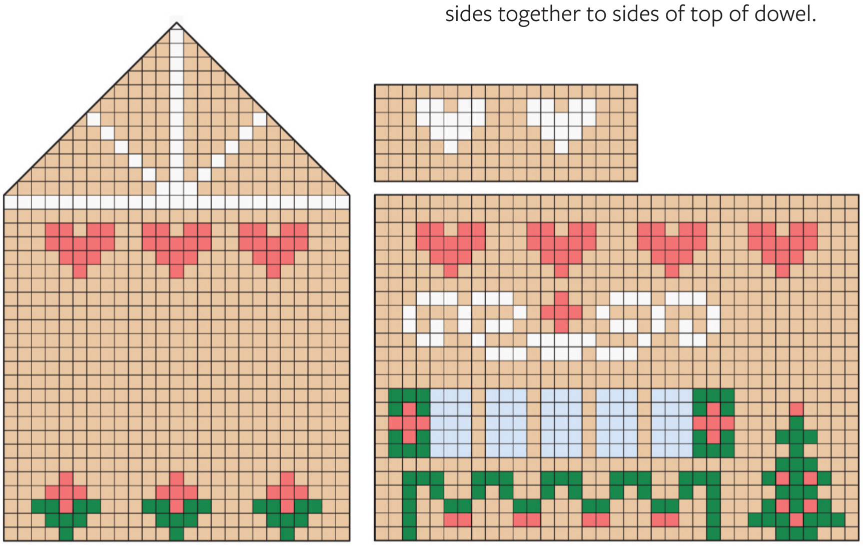
When all cross-stitching is complete, stiffen all pieces with glue, except the lollipop motifs, as follows:

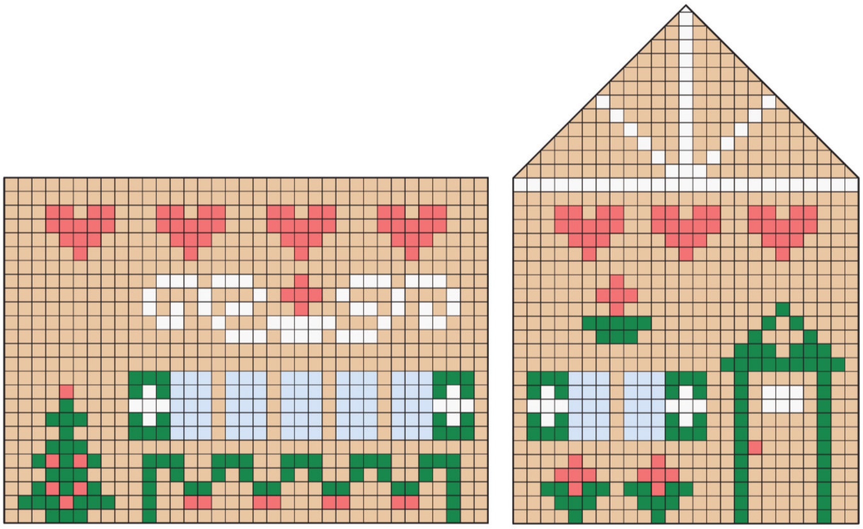
Cover foam-core board with plastic wrap and secure with tape at the back. Dilute white glue with water in a bowl. For sides, front, and back of house, saturate back only of pieces.

For the rest of the pieces, saturate each piece, then lay them flat on foam-core board and pin to shape. Allow to dry thoroughly before gently peeling from plastic wrap.

With undiluted glue, glue together house pieces. Glue the corner edgings, roof, and roof trim to the house.

For lollipop trees, glue pieces of ¼-inch dowel 3¼ inches long to wood wheels. When dry, spray with white paint. After this dries, glue two crochet motifs with wrong sides together to sides of top of dowel.





Instructions

COZY CHRISTMAS

shown on *page 43*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 100% acrylic worsted weight yarn (6 oz. skeins): cream fleck, dark red fleck, dark green fleck
- ☐ Size J/10 crochet hook

Finished size is 45×63 inches.

Gauge: One motif is 9 inches square.

Repeat the 10 rounds to make a total of 35 motifs.

With cream fleck, ch 6; sl st in first ch to close ring.

Rnd 1: With cream fleck, ch 1, work 16 sc in ring; sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

Rnd 2: Attach dark green fleck in any sc; ch 3 (counts as first dc), 4 dc in same sc, drop lp off hook, insert hook in top of third ch from hook, pull dropped lp through, *ch 5, skip next sc**, [5 dc in next sc, drop lp off hook, insert hook in top of first dc, pull dropped lp through] = popcorn made; rep from * around, ending at **, sl st in top of third ch from hook.

Rnd 3: Sl st in first ch-5 sp, ch 1, (sc, hdc, 3 dc, hdc, sc) = petal made; rep petal in each ch-5 sp around; sl st in top of first sc. Fasten off.

Rnd 4: Attach dark green fleck in center dc of any petal, ch 1, (sc, ch 2, sc) in same dc, ch 7, *(sc, ch 2, sc) in center dc of next petal, ch 7**; rep from * around, ending at **, sl st in first sc and next ch-2 sp.

Rnd 5: Ch 1, (sc, ch 3, sc) in same ch-2 sp, *(sc, hdc, dc, trc, dc, hdc, sc) in next ch-7 sp**, (sc, ch 3, sc) in next ch-2 sp; rep from * around, ending at **, sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

Rnd 6: Attach cream fleck in any ch-3 sp, ch 6 (counts as dc and ch 3), dc in same sp, *ch 3, sc in next trc, ch 4, sc in next ch-3 sp, ch 4, sc in next trc, ch 3**, [(dc, ch 3) twice, dc] in next ch-3 sp; rep from * around, ending at **, dc in next sp, ch 3; sl st in third ch of first ch-6.

Rnd 7: Ch 3 (counts as first dc), *3 dc in next 2 sps, 4 dc in next 2 sps, 3 dc in next 2 sps**, (dc, ch 3, dc) in corner sp; rep from * around, ending at **, dc in same st as beg ch-3, ch 3, sl st in top of beg ch-3.

Rnd 8: Ch 1, sc in each dc and 3 sc in each corner sp around; sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

Rnd 9: Attach dark red fleck in any corner sc, ch 2 (counts as first hdc), 2 hdc in same sc; work hdc in each sc and 3 hdc in next 3 corners around; sl st in top of ch-2. Fasten off.

Rnd 10: Insert hook from back to front to back around hdc in any corner, pull dark green fleck through and attach, ch 3, yo, insert hook from back to front to back around post of next hdc, (yo, draw through 2 lps) twice = bpdc made. Work bpdc in each hdc and 2 bpdc in each corner hdc around; sl st in top of ch-3. Fasten off.

FINISHING THE AFGHAN

Working on wrong side with dark green fleck, sew the motifs together in 7 rows of 5 motifs each.

Border: Attach dark red fleck in any corner bpdc, ch 1, work 3 sc in each corner and 1 sc in each st and joining seam around; sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

SPICED COOKIE COTTAGE

shown on *page 44*

HANDS-ON TIME 5 hr.
TOTAL TIME 10 hr.

SPICED COOKIE DOUGH

You will need two batches, but make them one at a time so your mixer can handle it. Prepare dough at least 2 hours ahead.

4	cups plus 2 tsp. all-purpose flour
1	tsp. baking powder
2	tsp. Chai Spice Blend (1 Tbsp. ground ginger; 1 tsp. each ground cinnamon, ground cardamom, and ground allspice; ½ tsp. each ground cloves and black pepper)
1	cup butter
1	cup sugar
⅔	cup light-color corn syrup
1	tsp. vanilla
1	egg, beaten

TO MAKE THE DOUGH

In a large bowl combine 4 cups flour, the baking powder, and spice blend; set aside.

In a saucepan combine butter, sugar, and corn syrup. Cook and stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Transfer to a large bowl. Stir in vanilla; let cool 5 minutes.

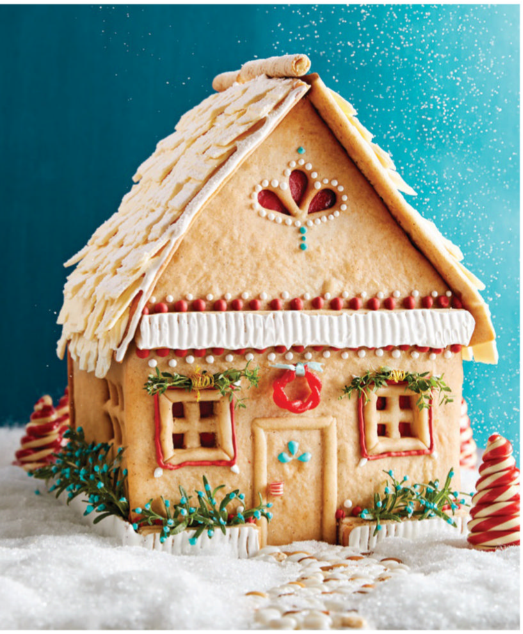
Add egg to butter mixture, mixing well. Beat in flour mixture until well combined. Divide dough into three portions. Cover; chill at least 2 hours or overnight. (If overnight, let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes to soften slightly before rolling.) Repeat steps for second batch.

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

BPDC – back post double crochet **CH** – chain **DC** – double crochet **HDC** – half double crochet **LP(S)** – loop(s) **REP** – repeat
RND – round **SC** – single crochet **SL ST** – slip stitch **SP** – space **ST(S)** – stitch(es) **TRC** – treble crochet **YO** – yarn over

SHAPE AND BAKE THE DOUGH

Preheat oven to 375°F. Transfer one portion of the dough to work surface; roll between two pieces of parchment paper to ⅛- to ¼-inch thickness. Arrange some basic house pieces: front wall, back wall, two side walls, two roof pieces, and long rectangle strips for planters and awning. If needed, you can find many basic gingerbread templates online. Cut out your pattern pieces. Remove scraps; set aside for rerolling. Using a small knife or a ½-inch square aspic cutter, cut out windowpanes on front and sides, keeping the muntins intact. Using a knife or a 1-inch teardrop-shape cutter, cut out attic windows. Knead 2 tsp. all-purpose flour into ¼ cup of the scraps; roll into thin ropes to form door and window frames. Transfer cut pieces of dough on parchment to baking sheet. Bake 11 to 13 minutes or until edges are light brown and centers are firm. (If cookie cutouts spread during baking, carefully trim edges while still hot.) Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute. Transfer to wire racks; cool completely. (They should be completely dry and crisp. If pieces soften, bake in a 325°F oven 10 minutes to recrisp.)



ROYAL ICING

4	cups powdered sugar
1	Tbsp. meringue powder
½	tsp. cream of tartar
½	cup warm water
1	tsp. vanilla

In a large bowl stir together powdered sugar, meringue powder, and cream of tartar. Add the warm water and vanilla. Beat with a mixer on low until combined, then on high for 7 to 10 minutes until very stiff. When not using, cover bowl with a damp paper towel; cover tightly with plastic wrap. (Icing dries out quickly when exposed to air.) Chill up to 48 hours. Stir before using. Makes 3 cups.

DECORATIONS

- ☐ Red and blue gel or paste food coloring
- ☐ Red rolled fruit leather
- ☐ Small fresh thyme and rosemary sprigs
- ☐ Red licorice ropes
- ☐ 12 oz. vanilla-flavor candy coating
- ☐ Brown and white jelly beans
- ☐ Coarse white sugar

TO DECORATE

Tint ¼ cup Royal Icing with red food coloring and ¼ cup with blue food coloring, then transfer to separate pastry bags fitted with small open tips. Transfer remaining white icing to a large pastry bag fitted with a large open tip. Cover work surface with parchment paper. Place cottage front face down; attach fruit leather as curtains. Let dry 15 minutes. Turn front face up. Spread white Royal Icing onto the awning; use a fork or toothpick to create texture in icing. Let dry. Attach awning, and pipe details as desired. Attach tied thyme sprigs above windows. Twist licorice rope into a wreath shape; tie with ribbon. Secure wreath above front door. Let dry 1 hour.

ASSEMBLE WALLS

Build your cottage on a large, flat tray or cutting board. Using heavy objects (tumblers or soup cans work well) to hold pieces in place, prop up the front wall. Pipe icing onto the edges of front wall and one side wall. Attach the side wall, using tumblers or cans to hold in place. Repeat with all walls. Let dry 2 hours.

DECORATE ROOF

In a medium microwave-safe dish heat candy coating 1 minute. Stir; cook 1 minute more or until melted and smooth. Stir once more. Spread coating onto parchment paper in a thin layer to form an 11×14-inch rectangle. Let set until firm, about 1 hour. Spread a thin layer of Royal Icing over a roof piece. Break candy coating into irregular bits; arrange bits in rows on wet icing, working from the bottom up across the width until covered. Repeat for other side of roof.

ASSEMBLE ROOF

Pipe icing along the top edges of one side of the cottage. Spread a ½-inch-thick layer of icing in a 1-inch-wide band on the back side of a roof piece where it will attach to the cottage. Set roof piece on wall edges; press gently to adhere to icing. Standard cans are the correct height to support roof while it dries. Repeat with other half of the roof. Pipe a line of icing down center of roof peak where the two halves meet; attach round cream-filled wafers. Let dry at least 2 hours.

BUILD PLANTER

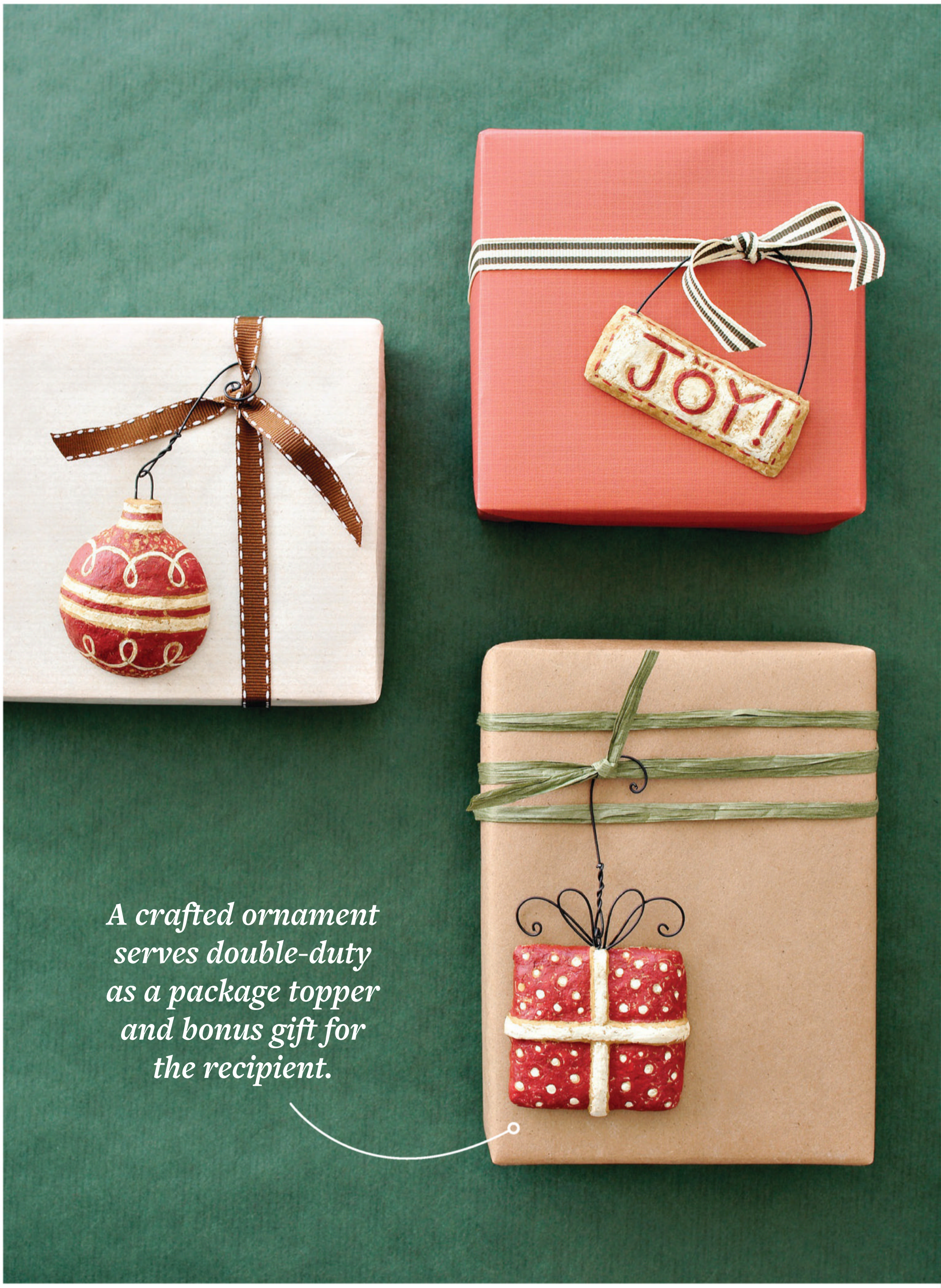
To decorate planters, spread Royal Icing onto two short and two long sections; use a fork or toothpick to create texture in icing. Pipe a generous strip of icing onto remaining planter pieces. Place rosemary sprigs on icing strips. Let dry 30 minutes. For sparkly lights, we piped blue Royal Icing onto tips of rosemary sprigs. Attach planters to front and sides of cottage.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Use Royal Icing to draw a path to the front door; attach jelly beans. If desired, decorate with mini peppermint candy trees, and dust roof with powdered sugar.

2000s

The dawn of the new millennium ushered in an explosion of creativity. Patterned papers, shimmering gems, sculpted papier-mâché, and loads of felt defined Y2K holiday cheer. The DIY spirit made every project feel personal and full of joy.



A crafted ornament serves double-duty as a package topper and bonus gift for the recipient.

TIMELESS TRIMS

There's always room for homemade classics in your holiday collection. Craft these ornaments (*above*) using instant papier-mâché, wire, and paint. Nestle them in an evergreen arrangement, display in a bowl, or use as package tags.

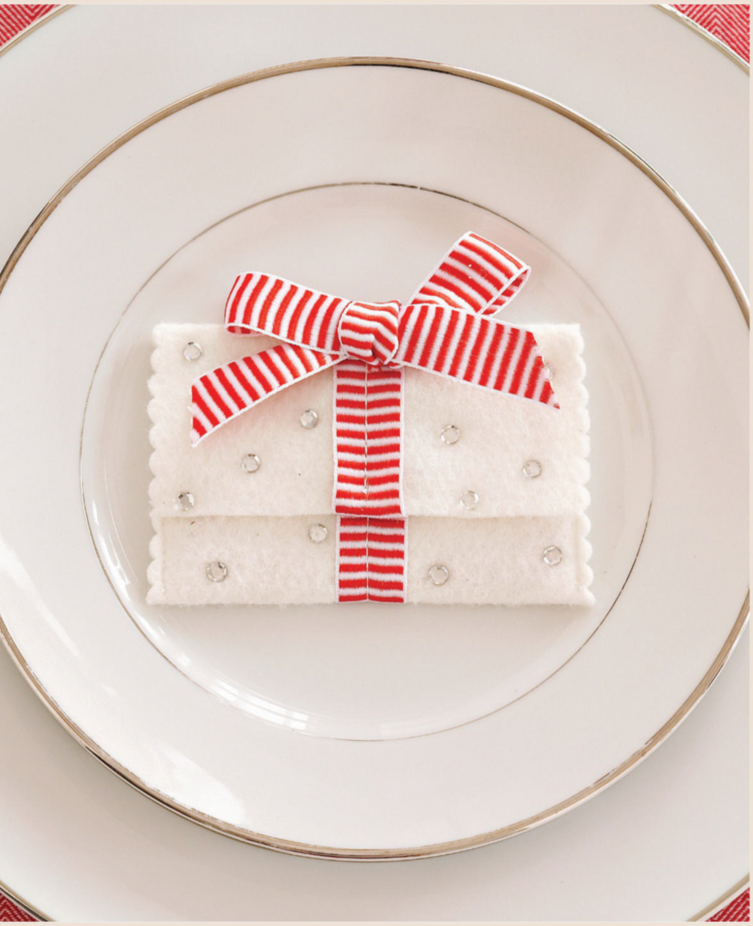
DESIGNER: **JOHANNA PARKER DESIGN**

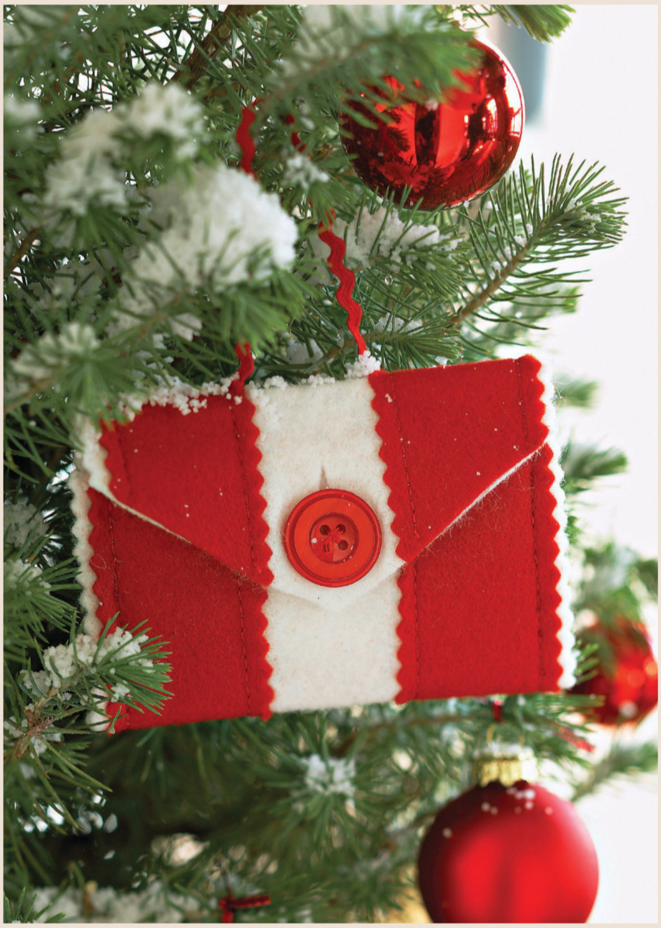
CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

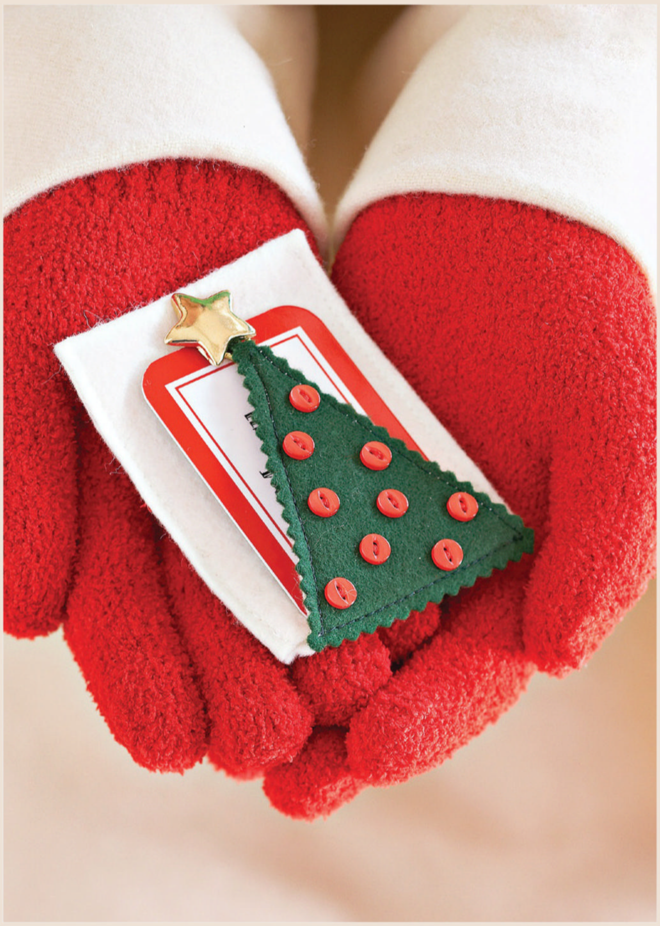
Keep track of the days until Christmas with a tree-shape calendar made from decorative papers (*opposite*). Behind each door hides a little ornament to hang on the doorknob. By December 25, the entire tree will be decorated.

DESIGNER: **LORI BERGMANN**

Christmas Countdown







UNDER WRAPS

What's on everyone's wish list? Gift cards! Up their appeal by skipping the store packaging for a homemade felt holder. This ribbon-wrapped, rhinestone-studded design (*above left*) is pretty and multifunctional: Use it to announce the menu of a yuletide dinner or to hold a party favor.

DESIGNER: **HEATHER HILL**

HANGING AROUND

Gift cards in plain paper envelopes can easily get lost in a flurry of packages under the tree. No worries here! Rickrack transforms this festive red-and-white card holder (*above*) into a purselike tree ornament. Hang it on a bough so it—and its contents—stay clear of the floor-level frenzy on Christmas morning.

DESIGNER: **HEATHER HILL**

BUTTONED UP

Decorating the tree has a second go-round with this piney packet (*left*). Red buttons serve as ornaments, and a star-shape button becomes the shining topper. A loop attached to the top of the tree wraps over the star button to secure the front cover. When unlooped, it opens to reveal a pocket that stows the gift card.

DESIGNER: **HEATHER HILL**

cover star

Better Homes and Gardens
CREATIVE COLLECTION PUBLICATIONS
Holiday Crafts
65 seasonal sensations
fabulous designs for fall through Christmas
full-size patterns
EASY GIFTS AND DECORATIONS
projects to keep year after year
Make this lovable snowman
see how on page 80

FROSTY FRIEND

Our cover star in 2002, this snowy character is ready for winter with a fleece scarf and hat. The body is created with fabric-covered foam balls and wooden legs and feet.

DESIGNERS: DIANE MONTEFUSCO AND DEBI SCHMITZ

FESTIVE THREADS

Vivid embroidery floss enhances the shapes of wood and plastic ornaments (*left*). In just an evening, you can wrap a set for your tree or to give as a much-appreciated present.

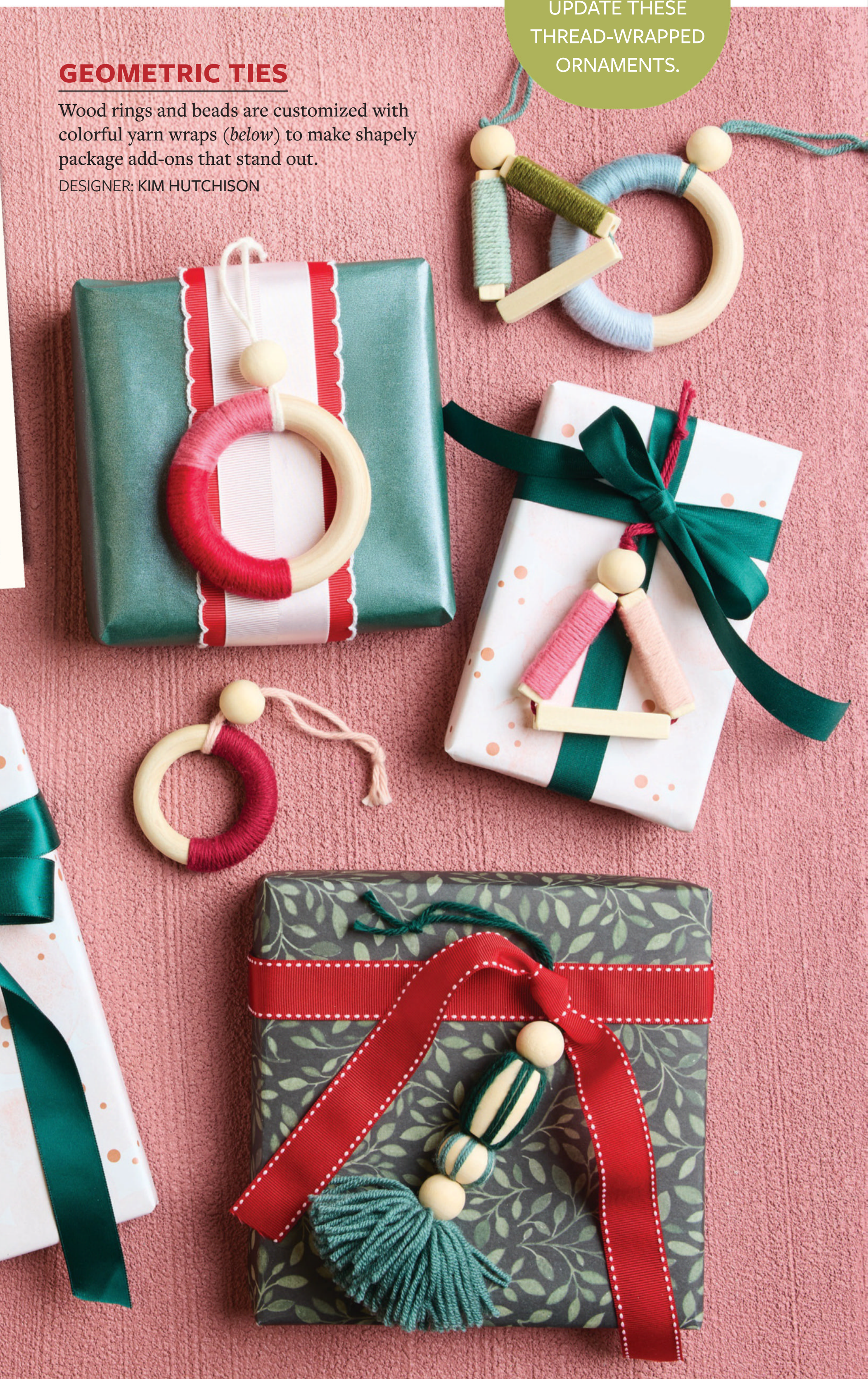
GEOMETRIC TIES

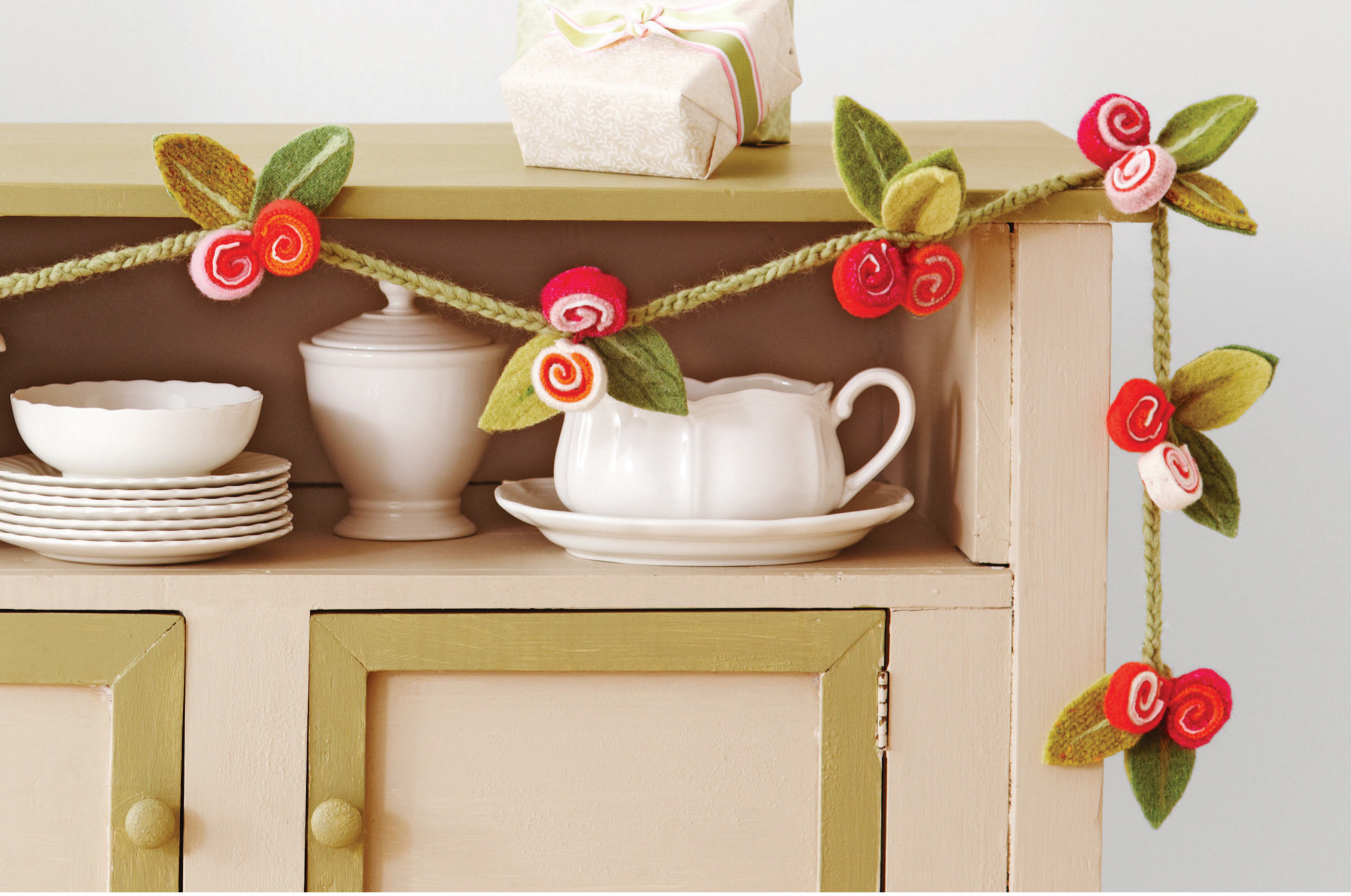
Wood rings and beads are customized with colorful yarn wraps (*below*) to make shapely package add-ons that stand out.

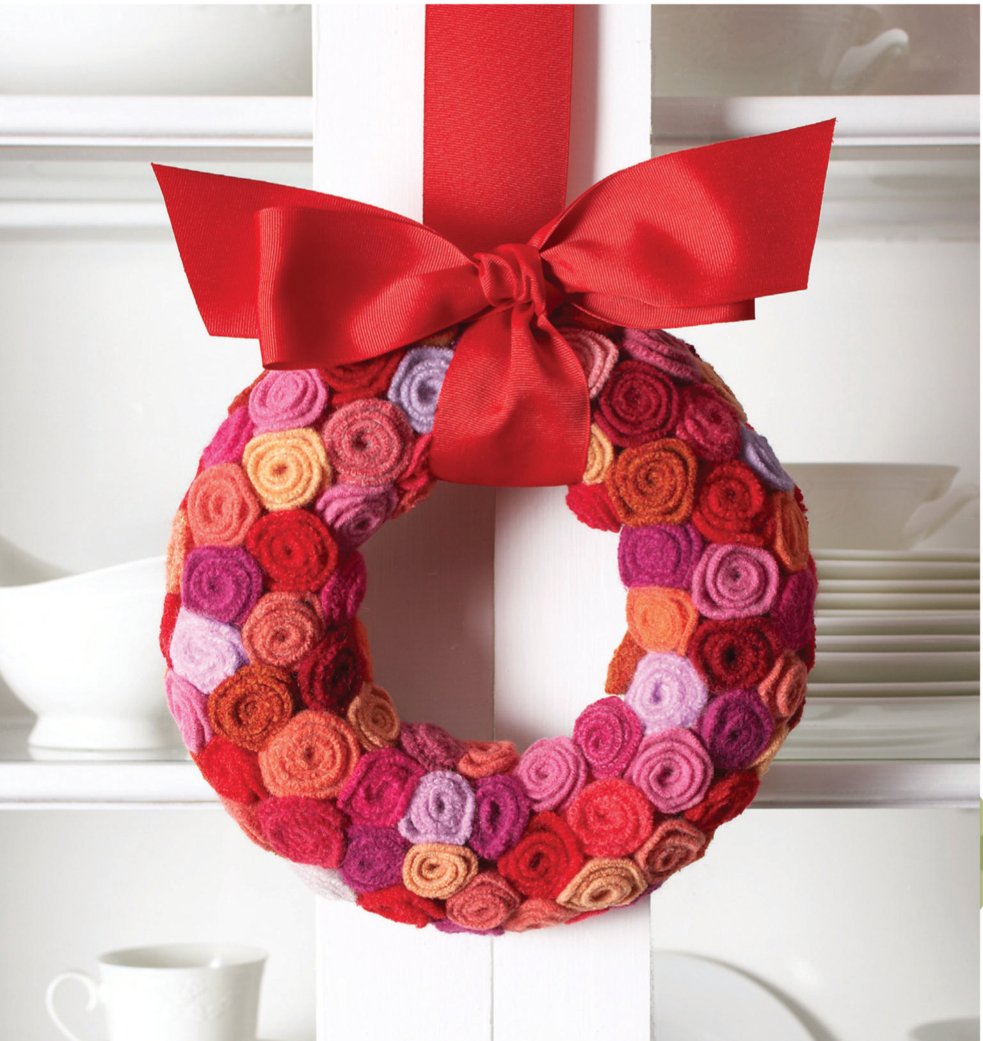
DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON

Reimagined

SOFTER COLORS AND LIGHT YARNS UPDATE THESE THREAD-WRAPPED ORNAMENTS.







ROSY GARLAND

Let your crafting green thumb create cottage charm with a textural garland (*above*). Grown on a vine of yarn, the blooms and leaves are made of felt. Drape it across a cabinet or mantel, or make enough length to entwine a tree. Use just the rose clusters to trim packages and stockings.

DESIGNER: **HEIDI BOYD**

RING-OF-ROSES WREATH

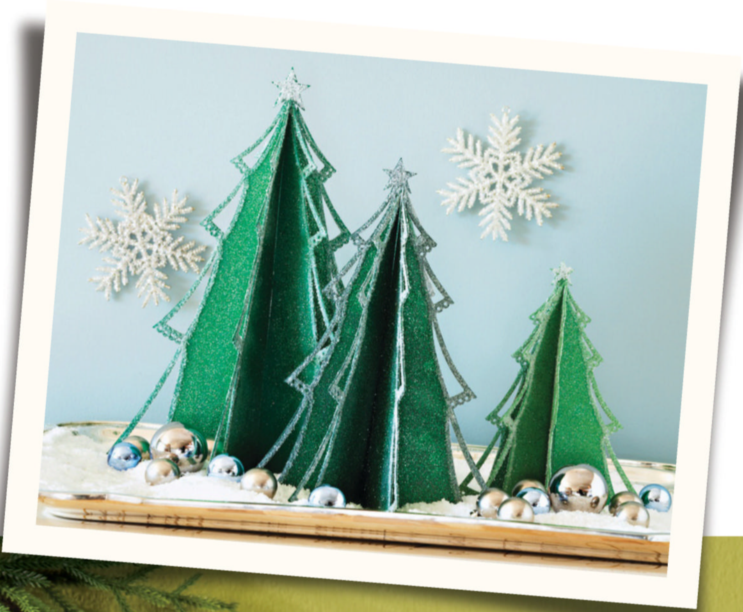
This flowery beauty (*left*) is assembled with perfect blooms of cut-and-coiled circles of felted wool sweater fabric. You'll need about three or four garments, so scavenge closets, drawers, and secondhand stores for thrifty woolen buys.

DESIGNER: **BETZ WHITE**

TOWERING PINES

Three shades of green paint turn these paper pines (*right*) into a mighty miniature forest. Each tree gets its dimension by sliding flat paper cutouts into a slit in the center piece. For a snowcapped look, glass glitter coats the star and boughs. A mixture of green, black, and white glitter covers the interior portions of each tree.

DESIGNER: **HEATHER HILL**



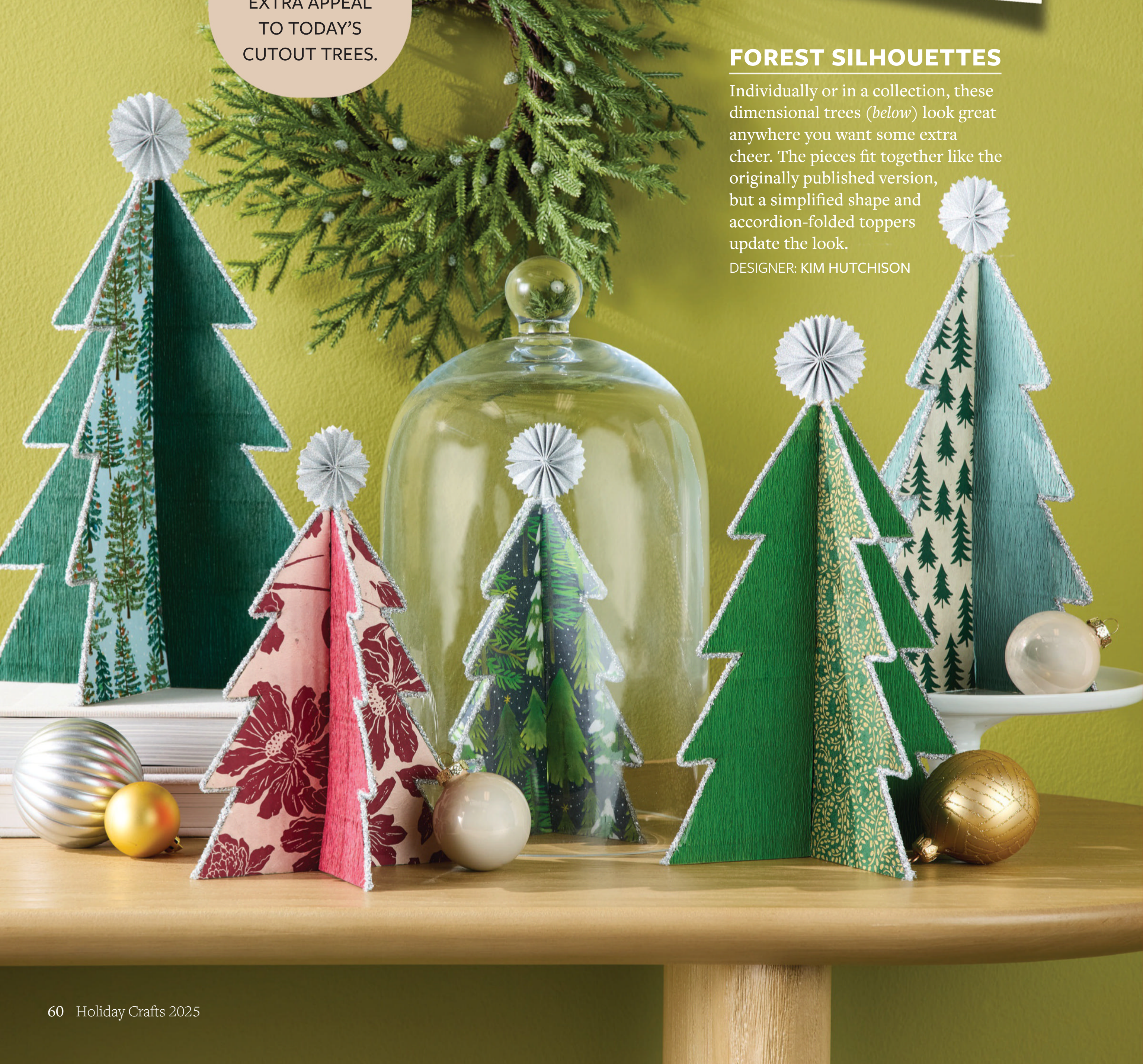
Reimagined

PATTERNED GIFT WRAP ADDS EXTRA APPEAL TO TODAY'S CUTOUT TREES.

FOREST SILHOUETTES

Individually or in a collection, these dimensional trees (*below*) look great anywhere you want some extra cheer. The pieces fit together like the originally published version, but a simplified shape and accordion-folded toppers update the look.

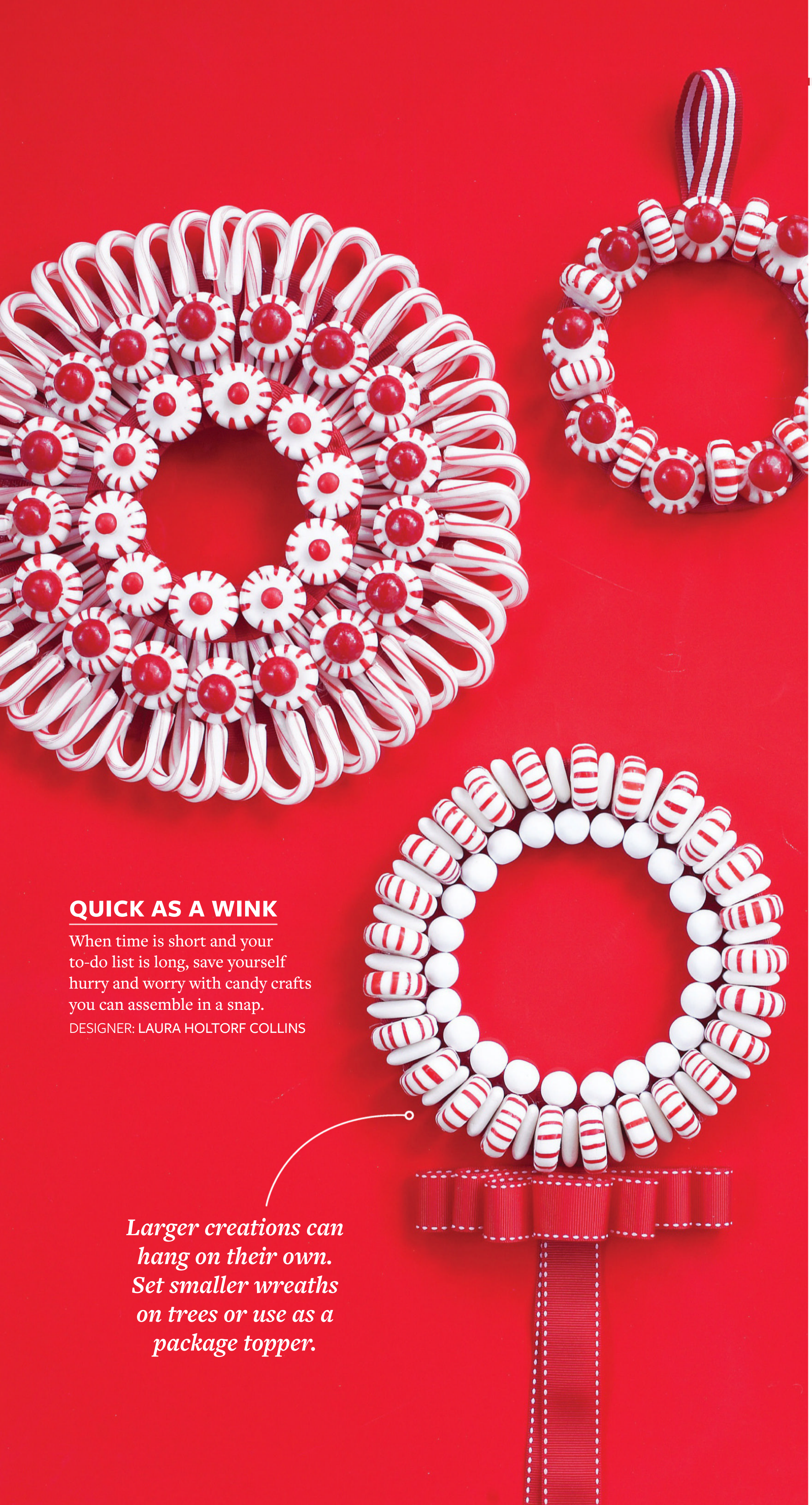
DESIGNER: **KIM HUTCHISON**



candy stripe

THROUGH THE DECADES

Inexpensive to make, these projects will sweeten any holiday.



QUICK AS A WINK

When time is short and your to-do list is long, save yourself hurry and worry with candy crafts you can assemble in a snap.

DESIGNER: LAURA HOLTORF COLLINS

Larger creations can hang on their own. Set smaller wreaths on trees or use as a package topper.

1939

Formed into taper holders and tabletop starbursts, candy canes set the scene.

1959

A tiered server displayed mini candy creations under a red Christmas tree.

1988

Candy cane centerpieces are back—this time as a DIY vase project.

TIMELESS TRIMS

shown on *page 54*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Thin black wire
- ☐ Needle-nose pliers
- ☐ Parchment paper
- ☐ Cookie sheet
- ☐ Instant papier-mâché (such as CelluClay)
- ☐ Thin palette knife
- ☐ Fine-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Acrylic paints: antique white, red, brown

PREPARE THE WIRE PIECES

For the bauble: Cut a 3½-inch length of wire and fold it in half to create a loop. Hold the loop securely with the pliers and twist the ends together. Cut a 5-inch length of wire and use the nose of the pliers to shape a curled hook at one end for the hanger.

For the "JOY!" sign: Cut a 6-inch length of wire. Use the pliers to make a small loop at each end of the wire to serve as an anchor when buried in the papier-mâché. Bend the wire into an arc with the ends about 2¼ inches apart.

For the package: Cut a 3½-inch and a 5-inch length of wire; make the hanger shapes in the same manner as for the bauble above. For the bow, cut two 6-inch lengths of wire. Fold each length in half, forming bow loops.

Place the loops side by side with the hanger loop in between; squeeze and twist the loose ends together, securing the loop at the center of the bow.

Cut two 3½-inch lengths of wire for the ribbon tails. Use the pliers to make a tight curl at one end of each length. Twist the straight end of each tail wire around the bow-loop wires.

SHAPE THE ORNAMENTS

Cover a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Mix the instant papier-mâché with warm water, following the manufacturer's instructions. It's best to mix small batches of papier-mâché and keep the mixture in a resealable plastic bag while you work. Knead the mixture until it's a smooth, workable consistency. Keep a bowl of warm water handy to dip your fingers in as you form the ornaments on the cookie sheet.

For the bauble: Roll a small ball of mixture in the palm of your hand until smooth. Place it on the cookie sheet and press lightly to flatten into a 2-inch-diameter circle. Use the palette knife to form and shape the ball so the center is more rounded than the edges. Shape a small column of mixture for the topper, and attach it to the top of the ornament. Smooth the edges into the ball. Press the wire loop down into the top until just the loop is exposed. Smooth the mixture around the base of the loop.

For the "JOY!" sign: Roll a 3-inch-long tube until smooth. Press the tube onto the cookie sheet, creating a 3×1-inch rectangle. Use the palette knife to smooth the top and edges of the shape. Press the loop ends of the wire arc hanger down into the wet mixture. Smooth the mixture, hiding the ends of the wire.

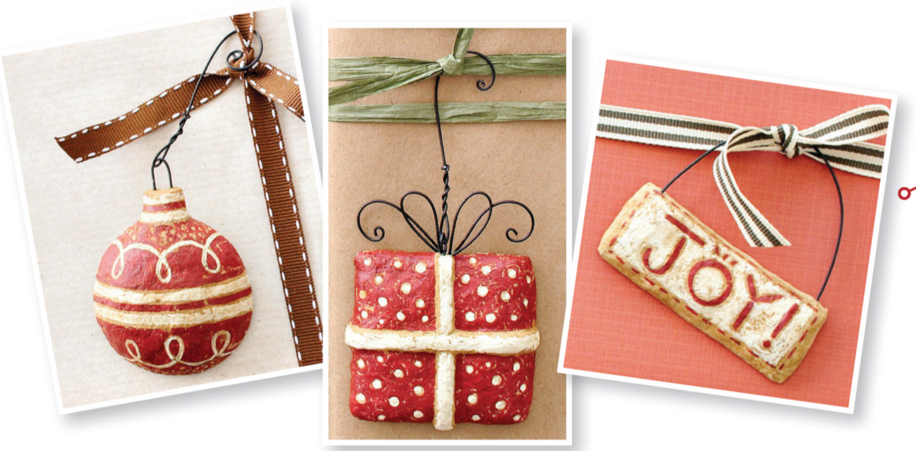
For the package: Form a square shape of the mixture and flatten it into a 2¼×2¼-inch square on the cookie sheet. Push the twisted wires of the wire bow down into the flattened square; use the knife to smooth the mixture over and across the wires. Roll two ¼×2-inch tubes of the mixture for the ribbon. Cross the ribbon pieces in the center of the package and press in place. Smooth and blend the edges into the package.

FINISH THE ORNAMENTS

Bake the ornaments in an oven on a low setting for an hour or until hardened. Remove from oven; leave the ornaments on the sheet until cool. Lightly sand each piece.

Using the photographs (*below*) as a guide, paint antique white stripes and curlicues on the bauble and polka dots and ribbons on the package. With red, make stripes and fill in around the previous stripes and curlicues on the bauble; add the word "JOY!" and a dashed border to the sign; paint around the polka dots on the package ornament.

Use antique white to fill in the area between the dashed border and the letters of the sign and to paint the back of each ornament. When the paint is dry, create an aged patina by mixing a small amount of brown with water. Apply this mixture to the surface of each ornament; let dry.



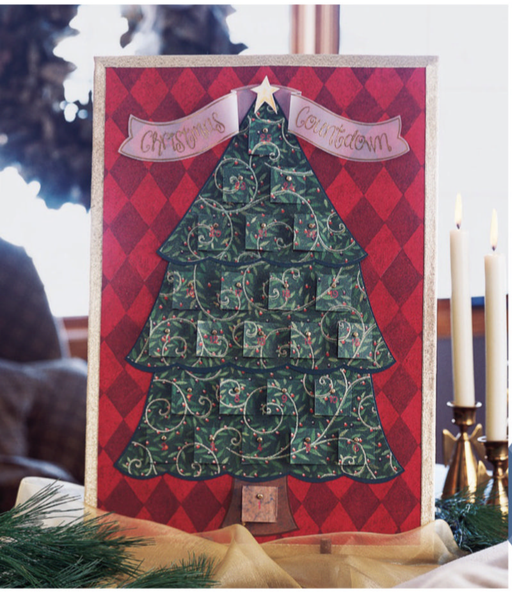
Change up the look of these creations by swapping red for your favorite holiday hue.

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

shown on *page 55*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Tracing paper
- ☐ 12×12-inch sheets of patterned paper: three each of green and red
- ☐ 8½×11-inch sheet of copper metallic paper
- ☐ Cardstock: three sheets of dark green and one sheet of brown
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Wax-free tracing paper
- ☐ Metallic gel pens: red and gold
- ☐ Crafts knife and straightedge
- ☐ Spray adhesive
- ☐ 12×17½-inch piece of foam-core board
- ☐ 12×17½-inch rectangle of black tag board
- ☐ 1 yard of 1-inch-wide gold ribbon
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Computer and printer
- ☐ Two 8½×11-inch sheets of plain vellum
- ☐ Gold embossing ink pen
- ☐ Large-eye needle
- ☐ Small gold brads
- ☐ Assorted clip-art images
- ☐ Shrink plastic for printer (such as Shrinky Dinks)
- ☐ 1⁄16-inch and ⅛-inch hole punches
- ☐ Fine gold cording



PREPARE THE TREE

Trace the trunk, treetop, tree center, and tree bottom patterns, including the box lines and numbers, from the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper.

From green patterned paper, cut one tree top, one tree center, and one tree bottom. From copper metallic paper, cut trunk. Mount the tree shapes on dark green cardstock and the trunk on brown cardstock with glue stick. Trim the cardstock ⅛ inch beyond the edges of the shapes.

Use the wax-free tracing paper to transfer the doors and numbers onto each tree and trunk shape. Write on the numbers with a red gel pen. Use the gold gel pen to highlight any designs on the paper. When ink is dry, use the crafts knife and straightedge to cut through the top and bottom edges of each door; score the right edge of each door.

PREPARE THE BACKGROUND

Use spray adhesive to adhere red patterned paper to one side of the foam core; piece the sheets as necessary. Temporarily position the tree shapes on the red background, overlapping the edges. Open up each door and use a pencil to draw along the edges of the openings onto the background. Remove the tree shapes.

Holding the crafts knife straight, cut through the foam core on the drawn lines, creating 15 square openings in the board. Attach the black tag board on the back of the foam core board with spray adhesive. Cut a square of red patterned paper to fit in each door and glue them inside each door. Use crafts glue to adhere ribbon to the edges of the board, wrapping the ribbon onto the front and back.

PREPARE THE BANNER

On a computer use a font of your choice to type “Christmas” and “Countdown.” Adjust the font so the text is ⅞ inch tall and each word is approximately 3 inches long. Print out each word in a light gray color centered on a sheet of vellum. Trace over the words with the gold embossing ink pen.

From the printed vellum, cut out a curved banner shape for each side, referencing image. Use the embossing ink pen to draw a line border ⅛ inch from the edges.

FINISH THE TREE

Use the large-eye needle to make a hole through each door centered above the date number. Attach a gold brad in each hole, leaving it loose so the ornament loops can hang behind the brad heads. Position the tree and trunk shapes on the red background, lining up the doors with the openings. Slip the banner pieces underneath the top of the tree.

Glue the inner ends of the banners to the background. Shape the banner, creating folds near the tree; glue the outer ends of the banner to the background. Glue the tree to the background so the top of tree covers the inner edges of the banners.

PREPARE THE ORNAMENTS

For ornaments, select 25 computer clip-art images and reduce each to measure approximately 2 inches. For the treetop, select a star and adjust it to measure approximately 3 inches. Print out the images on shrink plastic. Cut out each image and punch a ⅛-inch hole at the top of each ornament. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to shrink the plastic. For the hanging loop, put a length of fine gold cording through the hole; tie the ends together. Tuck an ornament behind each door. Glue the star to the top.

Instructions

GIFT CARD HOLDERS

shown on *page 56*

MATERIALS (for each holder)

☐ Scallop-edge scissors or pinking shears
☐ Matching sewing threads

UNDER WRAPS

☐ 4×6½-inch rectangle of white felt
☐ ⅝ yard of ⅝-inch-wide red-and-white striped ribbon
☐ Decorative rhinestones
☐ Fabric glue

BUTTONED UP

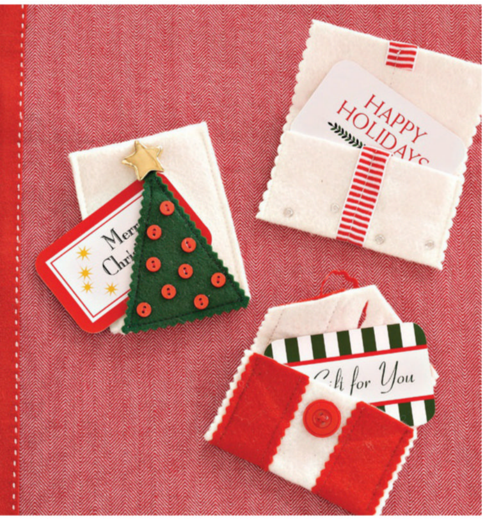
☐ Tracing paper
☐ Felt: white and green
☐ Nine ⅜-inch-diameter red buttons
☐ 1-inch-diameter gold star button
☐ 2½-inch length of gold elastic cording

HANGING AROUND

☐ Felt: 4×7¾-inch rectangle of white and two 1½×7¾-inch strips of red
☐ 6-inch length of red mini rickrack
☐ ¾-inch-diameter red button

Under Wraps: Center an 8-inch length of ribbon lengthwise on the white felt rectangle, turning under the ends. Attach ribbon to the felt by sewing down the center of the ribbon.

Fold up 2 inches at the bottom of the felt to form a pocket with the ribbon on the outside. Sew ⅛ inch from the side edges of the pocket. Fold down 1¾ inches at the top for the front flap; press lightly. Trim the sides of the gift-card holder with scallop-edge scissors.



Glue rhinestones onto the front of holder. Tie a bow with the remaining ribbon and tack to the center top on the front of holder.

Buttoned Up: Trace the patterns in the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper; cut out the shapes. Use the patterns to cut one holder from white felt and one tree from green felt, cutting the tree with pinking shears. Fold the rectangle-shape area of the white felt in half to form the pocket. Sew ⅛ inch from the side edges of the pocket.

Position the tree on the triangle-shape area of the white felt on the outside of the holder and sew in place 3⁄16 inch from the edges of the tree. Hand-sew the red buttons on the tree. Fold the tree flap up to close the holder; press lightly. Mark the placement for the star and sew a star button to the front of the pocket. Fold elastic cord in half and tack the ends to the back of the tree flap, adjusting the length as needed to fit over the star.

Hanging Around: Trim the long edges of each felt piece with pinking shears. Position the red strips on the white rectangle slightly in from the side edges. To form the handle, tuck ½ inch at each end of the rickrack under an inside edge of the red strips 2 inches from the top edge of the felt pieces. Sew the red strips in place close to the long edges, catching the rickrack ends in the stitching.

Fold up 2¾ inches at the bottom of the felt to form a pocket with the red strips on the outside. Sew the side edges of the pocket atop the outer stitching line of each red strip. Fold down 2 inches at the top for the front flap; press lightly. To shape the front flap, trim from the center bottom to a point ¾ inch below the top corners.

Cut a vertical slit in the center section of the flap large enough to accommodate the button. Sew the button to the pocket under the slit.

FROSTY FRIEND

shown on *page 57*

MATERIALS

☐ Orange polymer clay (such as Sculpey)
☐ 1¾-inch length of ¼-inch-diameter dowel (nose)
☐ Tracing paper
☐ 2×4×6-inch piece of pine
☐ Scrollsaw
☐ Drill and ⅜-inch drill bit
☐ Medium- and fine-grit sandpaper
☐ Wood sealer
☐ Navy blue acrylic paint
☐ Paintbrush
☐ 18-gauge black wire
☐ 2—¾-inch-diameter black buttons
☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
☐ ½ yard of ivory chenille fabric
☐ ¼ yard of navy-and-green plaid polar fleece
☐ Scrap of burgundy felt
☐ Scrap of burgundy knit fabric
☐ Foam balls: 6-inch (body) and 3½-inch (head)
☐ Foam glue
☐ Medium-weight polyester quilt batting
☐ Strong string
☐ 2—6-inch lengths of ⅜-inch-diameter dowel (legs)
☐ Wire hanger
☐ Tan pearl cotton
☐ Embroidery needle
☐ 3 assorted ¾-inch- to ⅞-inch-diameter buttons
☐ 2—½-inch diameter black half-ball buttons for eyes
☐ Miniature tin birdhouse

MAKE THE NOSE

Knead the orange clay until it is smooth and pliable. Make a cone shape about 1½ inches long and ¾ inch wide at the base. Twist the nose slightly, swirling the clay to resemble a carrot. Insert one end of the ¼-inch-diameter dowel about ½ inch into the base of the nose. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to bake the nose.

MAKE THE SHOES

Trace the shoe pattern in the *Pattern Pack* twice onto the piece of pine. Cut out shoe shapes with a scrollsaw. Drill a ¾-inch-deep hole at the center top of each shoe. Sand the shoes and apply wood sealer. Sand again with fine-grit sandpaper.

Apply two coats of navy blue paint to the shoes. Use fine-grit sandpaper to remove paint from the edges of the shoes.

Cut two 6-inch lengths of 18-gauge black wire. Thread the ends of each wire through a ¾-inch-diameter black button. Wrap each wire end around a pencil to form a coil. Hot-glue a button to the front of each shoe.

CUT THE FABRICS

From the chenille fabric, cut a 22×16-inch rectangle for the body/head and an 8×18-inch strip for the arms. From the navy-and-green plaid fleece, cut a 3¼×30-inch strip for the scarf and a 7½×15-inch rectangle for the hat. Fringe the short edges of the scarf by making 1-inch-long cuts ¼ inch apart. Fringe one long edge of the hat by making 2-inch-long cuts ½ inch apart. From the burgundy felt, use the mitten pattern in the *Pattern Pack* to cut four mittens. From the burgundy knit fabric, cut two 3×2½-inch rectangles for the socks.

MAKE THE SNOWMAN

Glue the small foam ball to the large foam ball with foam glue. Cut a piece of quilt batting wide and long enough to completely cover the assembled balls. Wrap the batting around the balls, overlapping the batting at the center back and hot-gluing in place. Tuck the batting around the bottom of the large ball and hot-glue in place. Tie strong string around the neck of the snowman to define the neck. Pinch the batting together at the top of the small ball. Tightly wrap string around the batting and knot. Trim the excess batting about ½ inch above the string.

Hot-glue one end of a ⅜-inch dowel into the predrilled hole in each shoe. Push the opposite end of the dowels into the bottom of the large ball about 2 inches apart. Insert the dowels into the ball until the distance between the shoes and the body is about 2½ inches. Remove the legs for now.

Cover the batting with the 22×16-inch chenille rectangle in the same way you covered the balls with batting. Make holes in the chenille to correspond with the premade holes at the bottom of the body. Insert the top of the leg dowels into the holes at the bottom of the body; hot-glue in place. For the socks, wrap a rectangle of burgundy knit fabric around each leg, overlapping the fabric edges at the back and hot-gluing the overlap.

From the wire hanger, cut a 12-inch length. To form the hands, fold back each end of the wire, forming a narrow 1½-inch-long oval. Wrap batting around the wire between the hands to measure about 2 inches in diameter. Wrap the 8×18-inch strip of chenille around the batting-covered wire, overlapping the long edges and hot-gluing the overlapped edges. With the chenille covering about ½ inch of each hand, wrap string tightly around the chenille and batting at the wrist and knot. Blanket-stitch the mittens together in pairs with tan pearl cotton, leaving the straight edge open. Slip the mittens over the wire hands, covering the raw edges of the chenille fabric. Hot-glue the mittens in place.

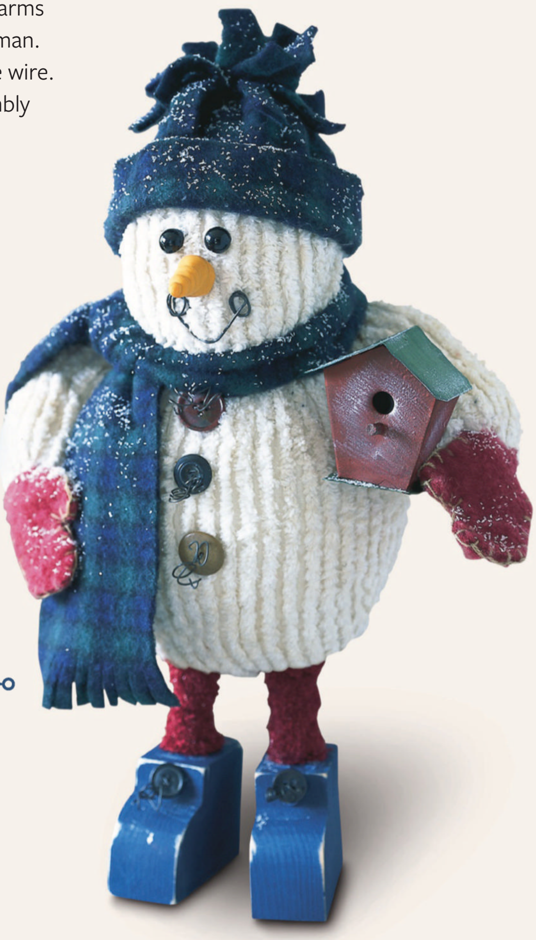
Bend the arms into a large C shape. To attach the arms, wrap 18-gauge wire or strong string around the center of the arms and then around the neck of the snowman.

Cut three 6-inch lengths of 18-gauge wire. Referring to the wire and button assembly for the shoes, make three additional wired buttons.

To attach the nose, make a hole in the fabric at the center of the face. Insert the dowel through the hole and into foam ball; hot-glue in place. Hot-glue the buttons to the face for eyes.

For the mouth, cut an 11-inch length of 18-gauge wire. Shape the center of the wire into a 1¼-inch-wide smile, and coil the wire at the top corners of the smile. Trim the wire ends 1¼ inch beyond the coils, and bend the ends at a 90-degree angle away from the smile. Position the smile on the face and push the ends into foam ball, then secure with hot glue.

Fold the hat rectangle in half, overlapping the 7½-inch edges; hot-glue the overlap. For the cuff, fold up 1½ inches on the edge opposite the fringe; tack in place with hot glue. Tie string around the top of the hat just below the fringe. Hot-glue the hat to the snowman's head and tie the scarf around his neck. Tuck the birdhouse in his arm.



This large stuffed folk-art snow friend will elicit smiles all winter long.

FESTIVE THREADS

shown on *page 58*

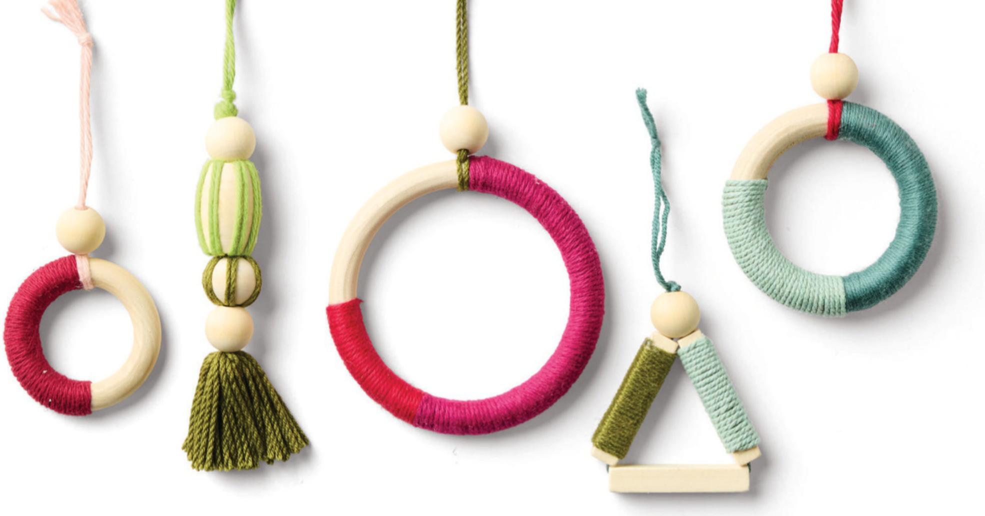
MATERIALS

- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Thick white crafts glue
- ☐ Wood or plastic ornaments in desired shapes or curtain rings with screw eyes
- ☐ Embroidery floss: blue, red, purple, magenta, orange, yellow, turquoise, lime green, deep green, olive green, or other desired colors
- ☐ Wire-edge sheer ribbon
- ☐ Large marking pen or dowel

Using a paintbrush, apply a thin layer of glue at one end of the ornament. Begin winding a desired color of floss around the glued area.

Continue gluing and wrapping embroidery floss around the ornament, changing colors as you wish. Make sure the floss ends are glued down securely. Let dry.

Tie a wire-edge ribbon to the top of the ornament, making a bow. Smooth out the ribbon tails, then wrap the tails around a large marking pen or dowel to create curls.



GEOMETRIC TIES

shown on *page 58*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted lightweight yarns in desired colors
- ☐ Wooden macramé rings
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Large-eye embroidery needle
- ☐ Assorted wooden beads: round, rectangular tube, oval

Ring-shape ornament: Cut a length of desired yarn; hot-glue one end to a wooden ring and thread opposite end onto needle. Insert needle into ring opening and out around the ring to wrap the ring. Repeat until desired area is covered, ensuring wraps lay evenly. Change yarn colors as desired, securing ends with hot glue.

Cut an 8-inch piece of yarn; fold in half. Insert folded end through ring opening; pull yarn tails through folded end. Thread yarn ends onto needle and add a round bead; knot yarn ends to hold bead in place. Tie a second knot approximately 4 inches from previous knot to create a hanging loop.

Triangle-shape ornament: Cut a length of desired yarn; hot-glue one end to a wooden rectangular tube bead and thread opposite end onto needle. Wrap yarn around each bead side. Repeat to wrap two wooden rectangular tube beads with yarn.

To assemble, cut a piece of yarn that is approximately 12 inches long. Using a needle, thread two wrapped beads and one plain bead onto yarn. Remove needle and tie yarn ends together in a knot to create a triangle shape with the beads. Rethread yarn ends onto needle and add a round bead; knot yarn ends to hold bead in place. Tie a second knot approximately 4 inches from previous knot to create a hanging loop.

Tassel bead ornament: Wrap yarn around three fingers 15–20 times; cut yarn and slip loop off fingers. Cut an 18-inch length of yarn; insert through the center of the yarn loops; tie ends in a knot, leaving long tails. Cut through center of loops to form tassel.

Thread yarn tails through needle. Add a small round bead and then a large round bead to yarn tails. Insert the needle back through the large round bead to wrap yarn around bead sides, creating a striped design as desired. Add hot glue inside bead hole to secure; remove needle but do not cut yarn tails.

Cut another section of yarn in a different color. Secure one end of yarn using a spot of hot glue inside an oval bead; wrap bead as before to create stripes. Secure last wrap with hot glue; remove needle, leaving long tails.

Rethread yarn tails from the tassel/bead section (first color) onto needle; add wrapped oval bead onto tails; tie tails in a knot and trim first-color yarn ends. Thread yarn ends from second color onto needle and add a round bead; knot yarn ends to hold bead in place. Tie a second knot approximately 4 inches from previous knot to create a hanging loop. Trim tassel ends as needed.

ROSY GARLAND

shown on *page 59*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 100%-wool sweaters: green, light green, chartreuse, red, pink, orange, white (see the felting instructions, *below*)
- ☐ Reynolds Blizzard yarn: Light Green (680)
- ☐ Size G crochet hook
- ☐ Tracing paper
- ☐ Felt: green, light green, red, pink, orange, white
- ☐ Rigid foam insulation scrap
- ☐ Felting tool
- ☐ Light green wool roving
- ☐ Pen-style needle felting tool
- ☐ Embroidery floss in colors to match felt
- ☐ Darning needle

FELT THE SWEATERS

Place the 100%-wool sweaters in the washing machine. (A top-loading machine works best.) Fill the machine with hot water and regular detergent. Agitate the sweaters on the longest wash cycle and rinse in cold water. Place the sweaters in the dryer for 30 minutes on regular heat.

CROCHET THE VINE

Note: For crochet instructions, refer to the diagrams (*right*). With the light green yarn and crochet hook, work chain stitches to the desired length.

MAKE THE LEAVES

Trace the pattern in the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper; cut out. Cut assorted leaves from the felted green sweaters and green felt. Stack a sweater leaf with a felt leaf and place them on the foam insulation. Repeatedly press the felting tool down over the leaves. The barbed needles will integrate the fibers of the two leaves. Lay a line of wool roving down the center of the leaf; using the pen-style needle felting tool, needle-felt roving in place. Alternate color combinations and make some leaves that are just made with two green sweater colors.

Using six strands of light green embroidery floss and the darning needle, stitch a pair of leaves to the yarn chain. Continue adding leaves every 5 inches along chain.

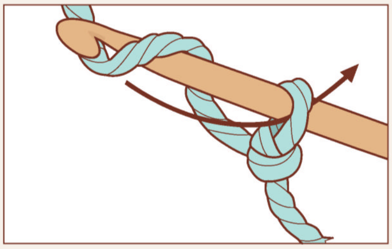
CUT THE ROSE STRIPS

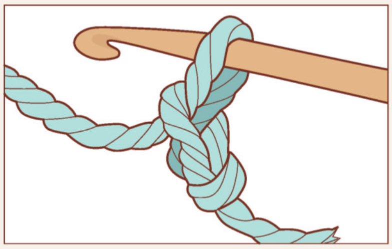
Cut a ¾-inch-wide outer, middle, and inner strip of felt for each rose. Then cut to length as follows: 5¼-inch piece for the outer, 3½-inch piece for the middle, and 2¾-inch piece for the inner. Stack the strips from the longest to shortest with the outer (longest) strip on the bottom. Align one short end of one middle and one inner strip; place the aligned ends ½ inch from one short end of the outer strip. This ½-inch area will be referred to as the flap.

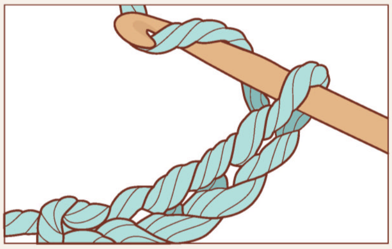
CREATE THE ROSES

Start rolling from the short end opposite the flap. Roll the thicknesses to form the rose, trapping the ends of the inner and middle strips within the outer strip. Using six strands of a matching floss and the darning needle, stitch through the flap and across the rose. Return the needle back to and through the flap to complete the stitch and to hold all layers in place. Thread the needle through the yarn chain directly below the first set of leaves. Do not tie off the thread or remove the needle. Roll the next rose, then use the threaded darning needle to stitch through the new rose as directed for the first rose and attach it to the garland; tie off the thread. Add two roses to each leaf set.

chain stitch





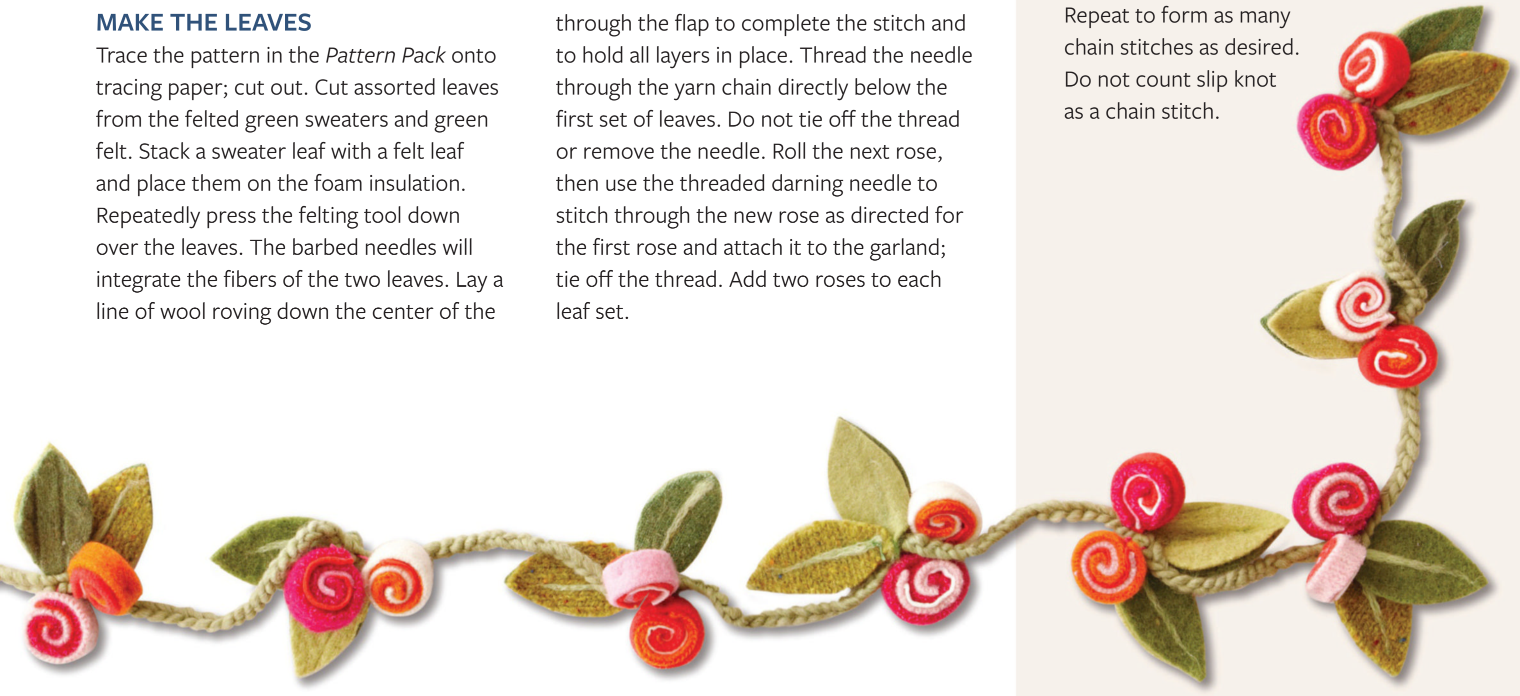


STEP 1

Yarn over (yo) hook and draw yarn through to form a new loop without tightening previous one.

STEP 2

Repeat to form as many chain stitches as desired. Do not count slip knot as a chain stitch.



Instructions

RING-OF-ROSES WREATH

shown on *page 59*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 100%-wool sweaters (from about 3 to 4 sweaters): assorted shades of red, orange, and pink (see the felting instructions below)
- ☐ Tracing paper
- ☐ Template plastic
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ 8-inch-diameter rounded-edge foam wreath form
- ☐ Straight pins
- ☐ 1 yard of 2-inch-wide red ribbon

FELT THE SWEATERS

Place the 100%-wool sweaters in the washing machine. (A top-loading machine works best.) Fill the machine with hot water and regular detergent. Agitate the fabric on the longest wash cycle and rinse in cold water. Place the sweaters in the dryer for 30 minutes on regular heat.

CREATE THE ROSES

Trace the pattern in the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper and cut out. Trace the pattern onto template plastic and cut out. Note: Do not cut along the coil lines. Cut about 120 circles from the felted sweaters. Referring to the pattern, cut each wool circle into a spiral. Starting at the outside edge at the X, roll the spiral into a rose shape, gluing the rolled spiral at the base.

ATTACH THE ROSES

Starting on the inside edge and placing roses close together, cover the wreath form with roses by gluing them down first and then securing with straight pins. Use the eraser end of a pencil to push each pin into the center of a rose until the pinhead doesn't show.

FINISH THE WREATH

Wrap the red ribbon around the wreath and tie it in a bow.

QUICK AS A WINK

shown on *page 61*

- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Assorted glasses and bowls
- ☐ Crafts knife
- ☐ Grosgrain ribbon
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Assorted red and white candies: peppermints, candy canes, sour cherries, cinnamon drops, white gum discs

MAKE THE BASE

Use a pencil to trace around desired sizes of round glasses or bowls onto cardboard to create an outer and inner circle. Using a crafts knife, trim out the outer circle and center to create a base ring. (Larger circles are best for candy canes and double layers of candies.) Secure one end of ribbon to cardboard circle with hot glue, then wrap until circle is fully covered; secure end of ribbon with glue.

ATTACH THE CANDY

Arrange candies as desired. Hot-glue each individual piece to ribbon-wrapped cardboard ring. Wreaths can be finished off with hanging ribbon or bows attached with hot glue.

TOWERING PINES

shown on *page 60*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Tracing paper
- ☐ White illustration board
- ☐ Scissors: sharp-tip and scallop-edge
- ☐ Crafts knife and metal straightedge
- ☐ 1⁄16-inch hole punch
- ☐ Acrylic crafts paints: light green, medium green, dark green
- ☐ Sponge brush
- ☐ Spray adhesive
- ☐ Superfine glitter: black, green, white
- ☐ Clear-drying glue in a fine-tip dispenser
- ☐ Glass glitter

Trace the patterns from the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper. Enlarge the patterns to desired sizes; we did three shapes: small, medium, and large. Cut out the shapes.

Trace the tree-star shape once on illustration board and each of the tree shapes twice; there are three pieces for each size of tree. Cut out the pieces with sharp-tip scissors. Make the center slits in each piece with a crafts knife and metal straightedge. Use the crafts knife to cut away the interior areas of the branches. Trim the bottom edge of each branch with scallop-edge scissors and make 1⁄8-inch holes along the bottom edge of each branch with the hole punch.

Paint the pieces for the small tree light green, the medium tree dark green, and the large tree medium green. Let the paint dry.

Spray one side of the three large tree pieces with adhesive and immediately sprinkle with green glitter. Turn the pieces over and repeat to apply glitter to the remaining sides. In this same manner, apply a mixture of green and white glitter to both sides of the small tree pieces and a mixture of green and black glitter to both sides of the medium tree pieces.

Use the fine-tip glue dispenser to apply glue to the star and to outline the open areas on one side of each tree piece. Immediately sprinkle glass glitter on the wet glue. When the glue is dry, repeat on the opposite sides of the tree pieces.

Assemble the trees by sliding tree sections together at the slits. Evenly spread the pieces apart to stand the trees upright.

FOREST SILHOUETTES

shown on *page 60*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Cardboard boxes
- ☐ Decoupage medium
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Assorted wrapping papers
- ☐ Assorted crepe papers
- ☐ Crafts knife and metal straightedge
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Silver wired tinsel cording
- ☐ Silver cardstock
- ☐ Scoring board or ruler and bone folder
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Toothpick or bamboo skewer

MAKE THE TREES

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack*; cut out. Cut cardboard boxes into pieces large enough to accommodate the patterns. Paint each cardboard piece with decoupage medium. While the medium is still wet, press pieces of wrapping paper or crepe paper onto desired surfaces; let dry. Trace patterns onto papered cardboard surfaces; cut out using a crafts knife and metal straightedge, making sure to cut the slits.

Hot-glue silver tinsel cording to the edges of each tree section; let dry.

Fit two corresponding tree sections together by sliding them together at the slits. Repeat for each tree.

ADD THE TREE TOPPERS

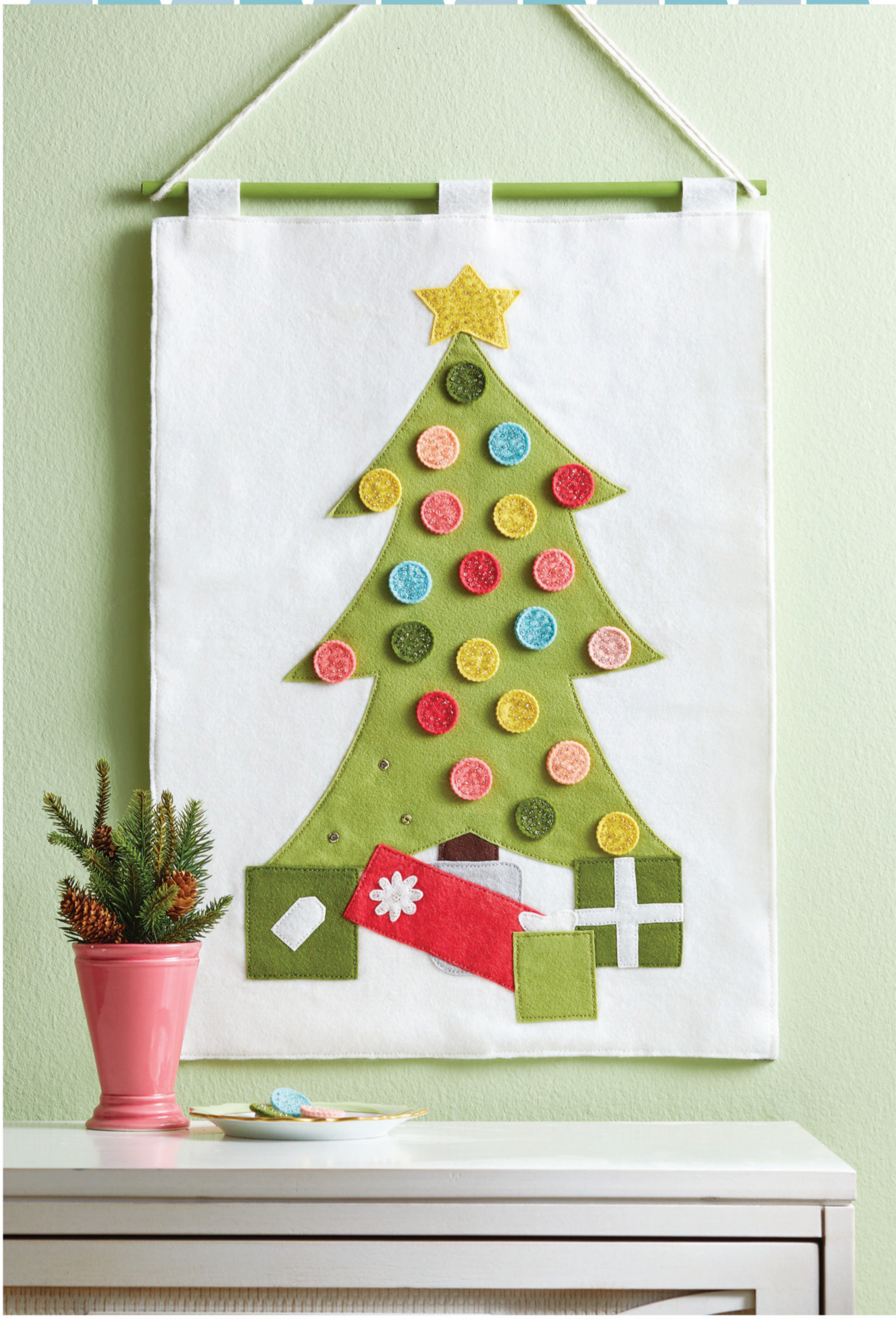
For a small tree topper, cut a 2×4½-inch rectangle from silver cardstock. For a large tree topper, cut a 2½×4½-inch rectangle. Using a scoring board or a ruler and bone folder, score the cardstock rectangle lengthwise through the center. Score the rectangle in ¼-inch intervals. Accordion-fold along the scored lines.

Pinch the rectangle in the center of the shape; glue adjacent ends together to create a round topper. Add glue in the center fold to hold the circle together.

Cut a 2-inch length from a toothpick or bamboo skewer; glue one end to back of the topper. Insert opposite end into the cardboard at the top of the tree.

2010s

It was the decade of Pinterest boards, an appreciation of handmade goods, and the rise of the modern maker. Holiday crafts in the 2010s took on a fresh, minimalist twist with nontraditional color palettes, natural materials, and clever upcycling.



SNAPPY DESIGN

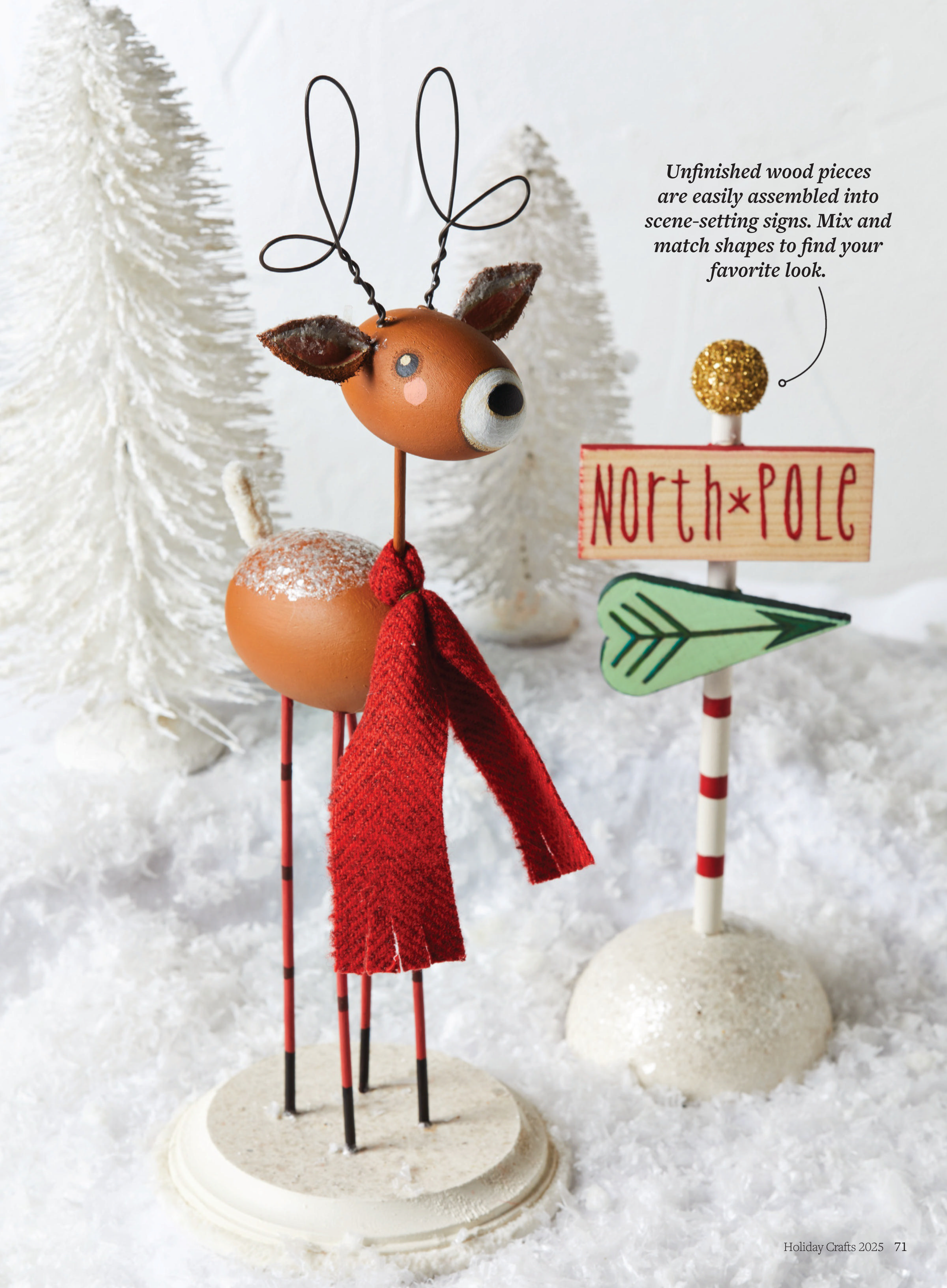
Start the Christmas countdown with a felt tree and snap-on ornaments (*above*) for each day in December. The modern shapes and bright vintage colors pop against a white background. Customize the double-thick felt ornaments using your favorite scallop-edge scissors and clear beads.

DESIGNER: HATCHLINGSBYRACHEL.COM

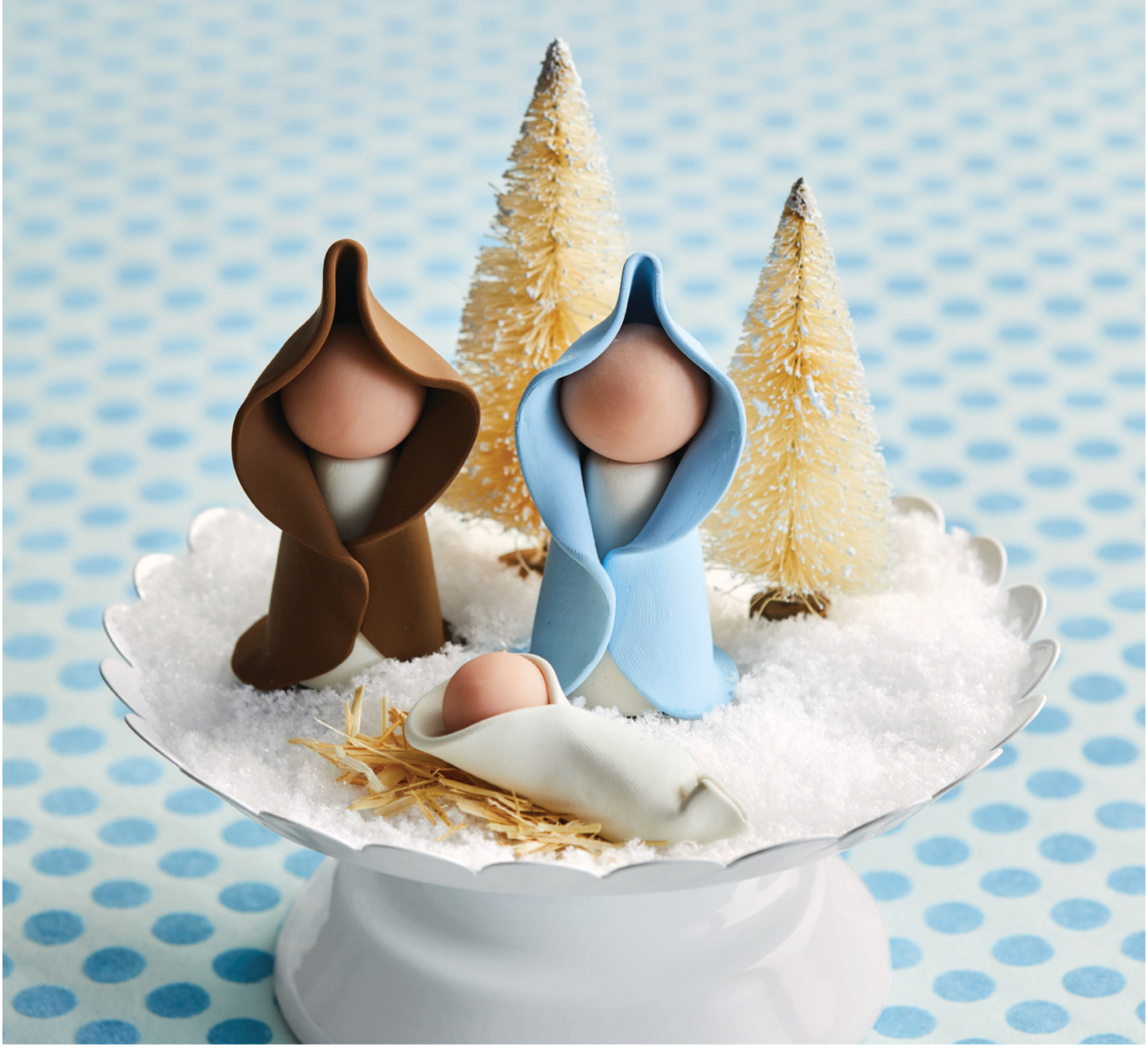
REINDEER GAMES

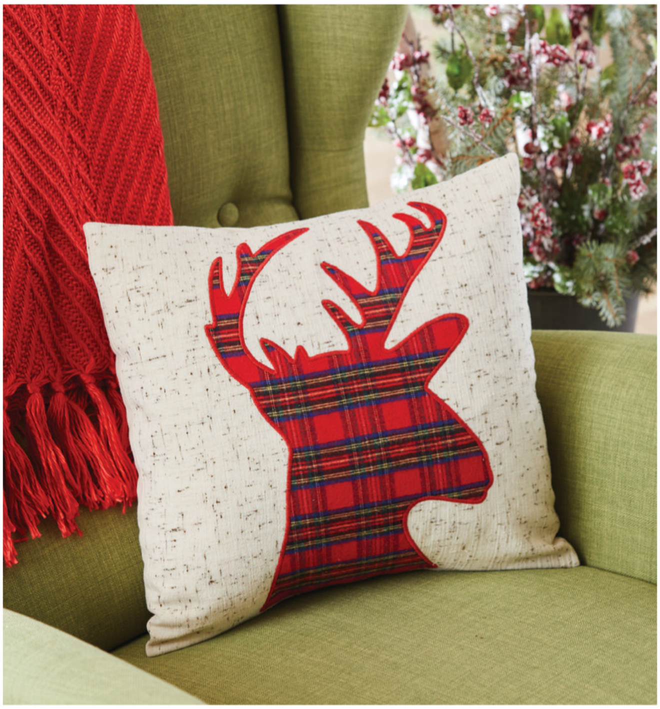
A playful reindeer (*opposite*) cavorts about the North Pole waiting for Santa's call. With twisty wire antlers, painted features, and a felted-wool scarf, this character stands tall on bamboo-skewer legs. Design your own Arctic scene with a glittery North Pole sign, white bottle-brush trees, and artificial snow.

DESIGNER: MELISSA BELANGER



Unfinished wood pieces are easily assembled into scene-setting signs. Mix and match shapes to find your favorite look.





CHILDLIKE WONDER

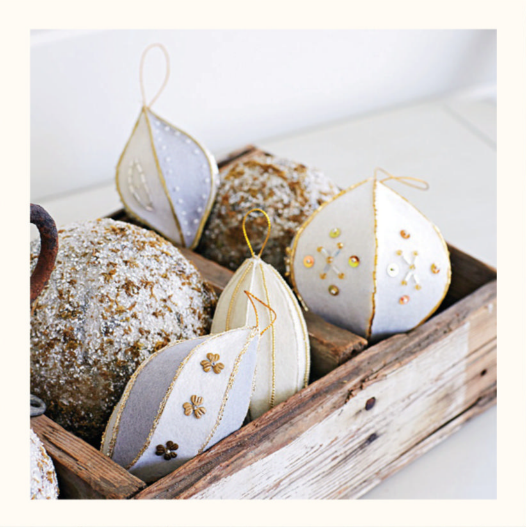
Humble cloaks wrap the oven-baked clay figures of the Holy Family (*above*). Without need for detail, the clay forms represent the distinct looks of Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus. The figures are assembled using just three pieces each: head, body, and cloak. Arrange your Nativity scene on a footed stand with bottle-brush trees and artificial snow, or set them in a purchased or homemade crèche.

DESIGNER: STEPHANIE DUKE

GLAD FOR PLAID

The exuberant red plaid appliqué on this pillow cover (*left*) creates a standout accent throughout the winter months. Resembling birch bark, the speckled background fabric nods to the winter woods—a fitting setting for the bold reindeer. Use the easy-to-construct pillow as an eye-catching garnish for a chair, bench, window seat, or bed.

DESIGNER: SUE RHOADES



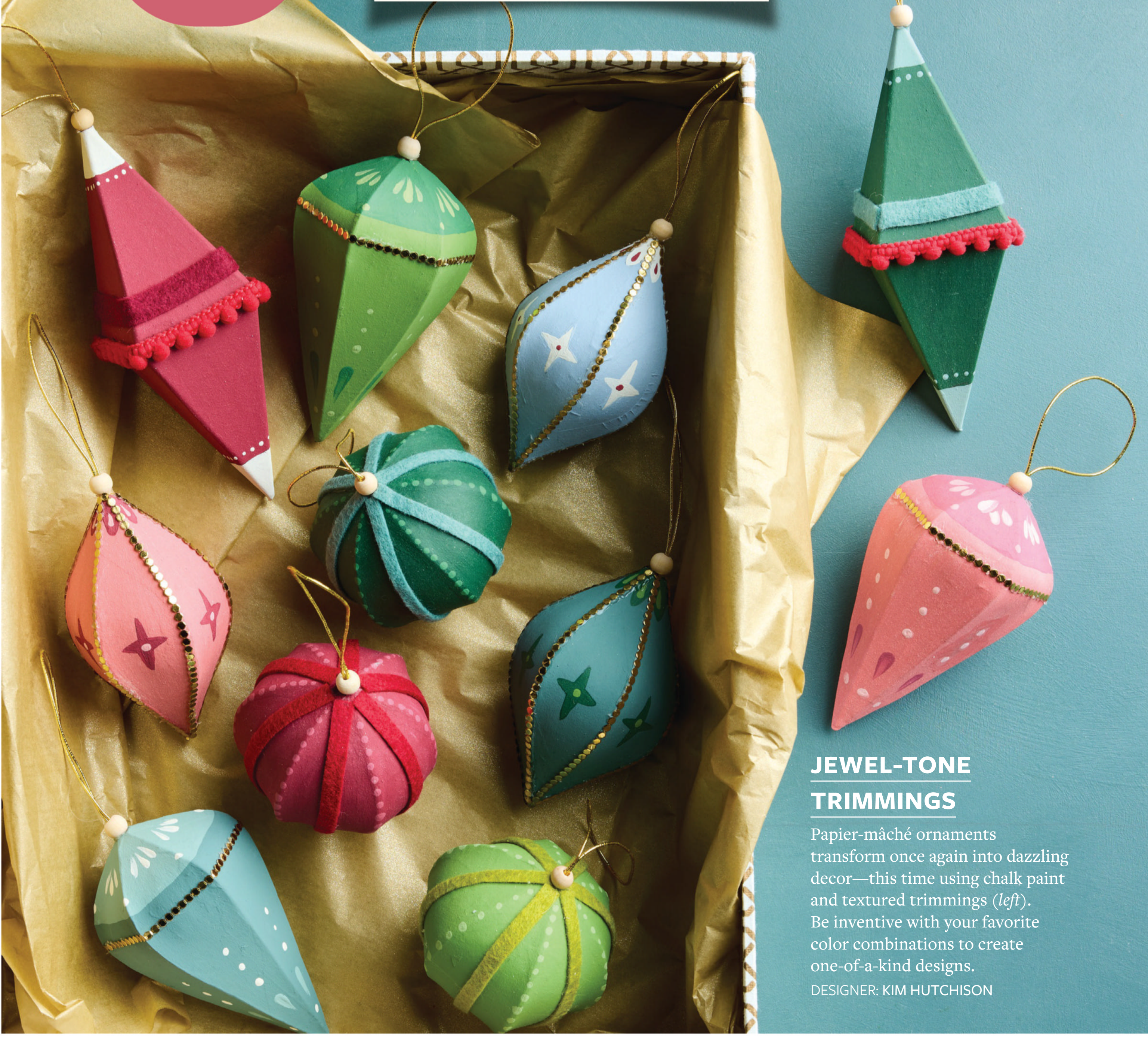
BITS AND BAUBLES

Purchased three-dimensional papier-mâché ornaments give a quick start to these neutral beauties (*left*). Felted wool elevates them to embraceable status. Cut felted wool to fit the panels, then add beads and sequins. Glue the felt pieces to the ornaments, and use gold cord to trim the edges.

DESIGNER: **SUZONNE STIRLING**

Reimagined

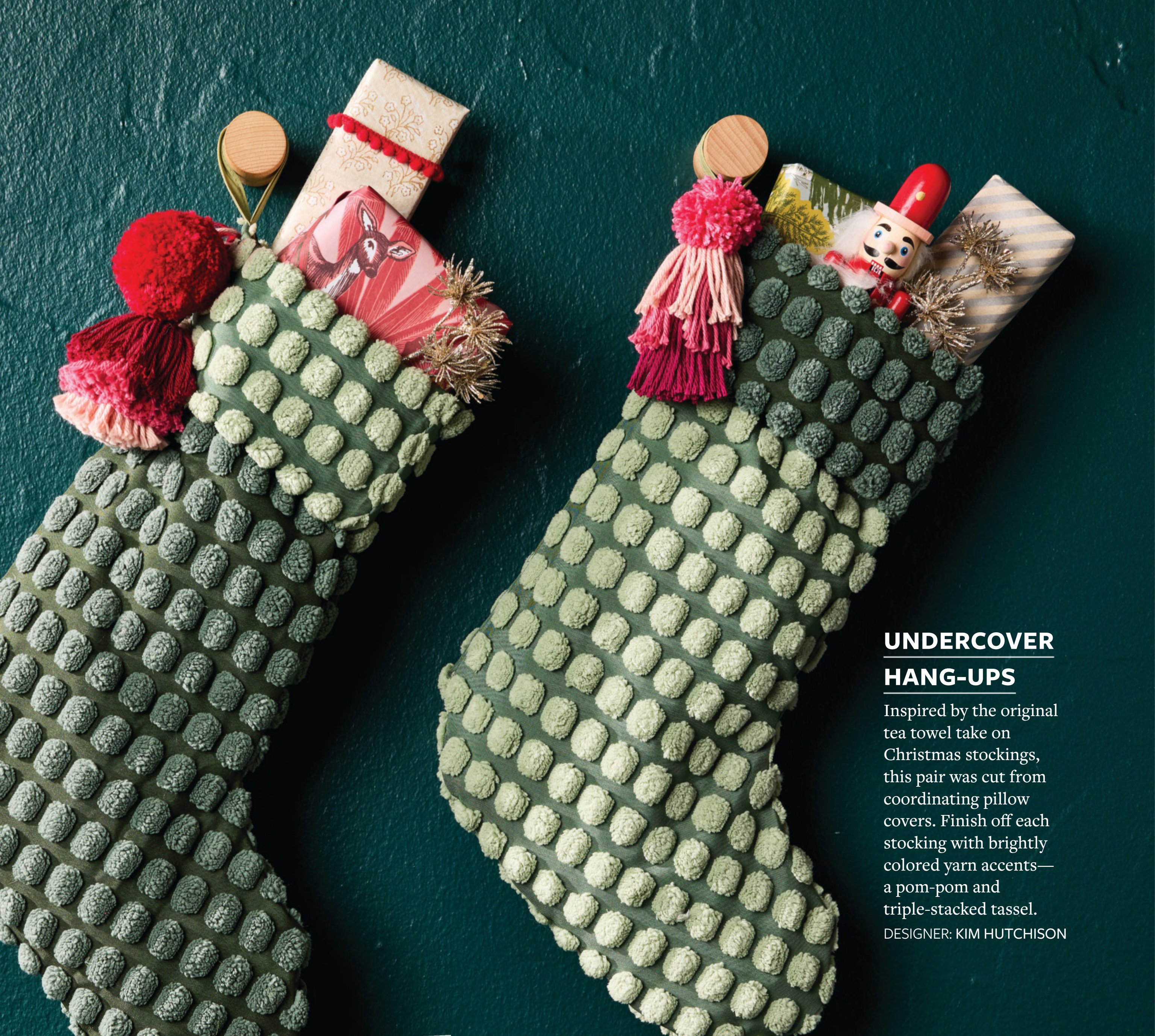
USE CHALK PAINT INSTEAD OF WOOL FOR A VIBRANTLY DIFFERENT LOOK.



JEWEL-TONE TRIMMINGS

Papier-mâché ornaments transform once again into dazzling decor—this time using chalk paint and textured trimmings (*left*). Be inventive with your favorite color combinations to create one-of-a-kind designs.

DESIGNER: **KIM HUTCHISON**



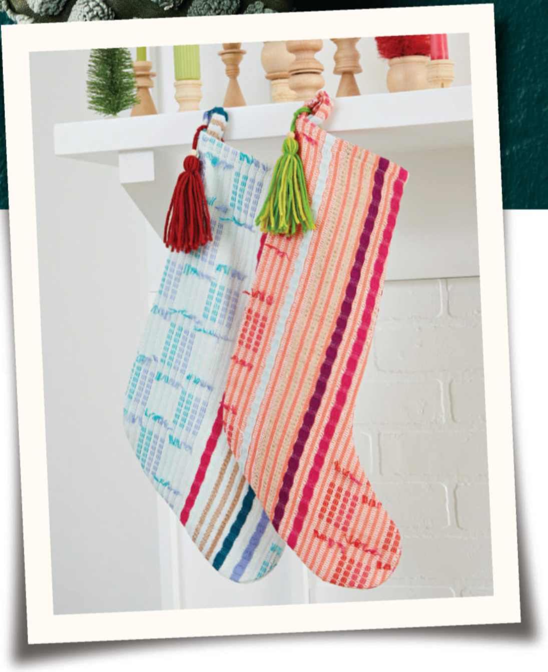
UNDERCOVER HANG-UPS

Inspired by the original tea towel take on Christmas stockings, this pair was cut from coordinating pillow covers. Finish off each stocking with brightly colored yarn accents—a pom-pom and triple-stacked tassel.

DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON

Reimagined

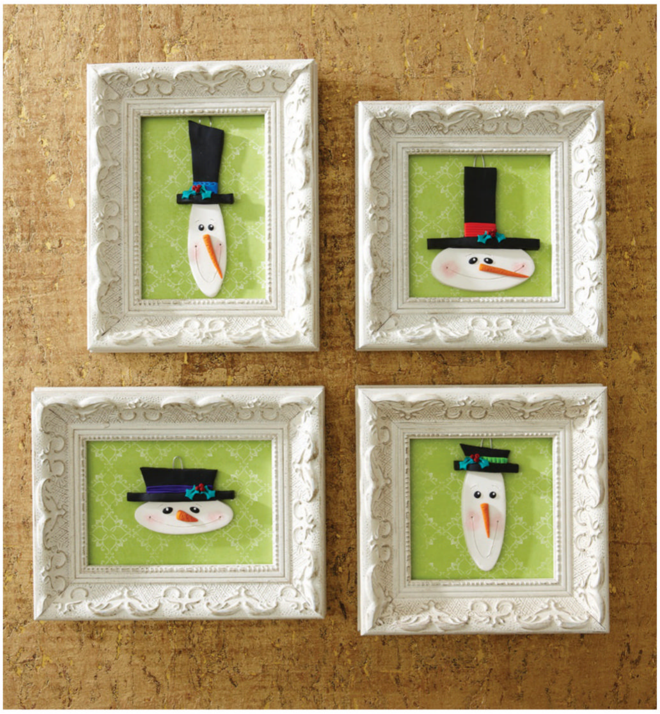
FABRIC BITS, PILLOW COVERS, AND LINENS CAN EASILY BE MADE INTO A STOCKING.



STOCKING SURPRISE

Tea towels are the secret to these textural stockings (*left*). Simply choose towels with patterns and colors that complement your holiday decorating palette. Using one hemmed edge of the towel at the top makes assembly easy. Tie on yarn tassels for a little color and style. Fun tip: Add a name tag to personalize each stocking.

DESIGNER: SUZONNE STIRLING



WINTER PORTRAITS

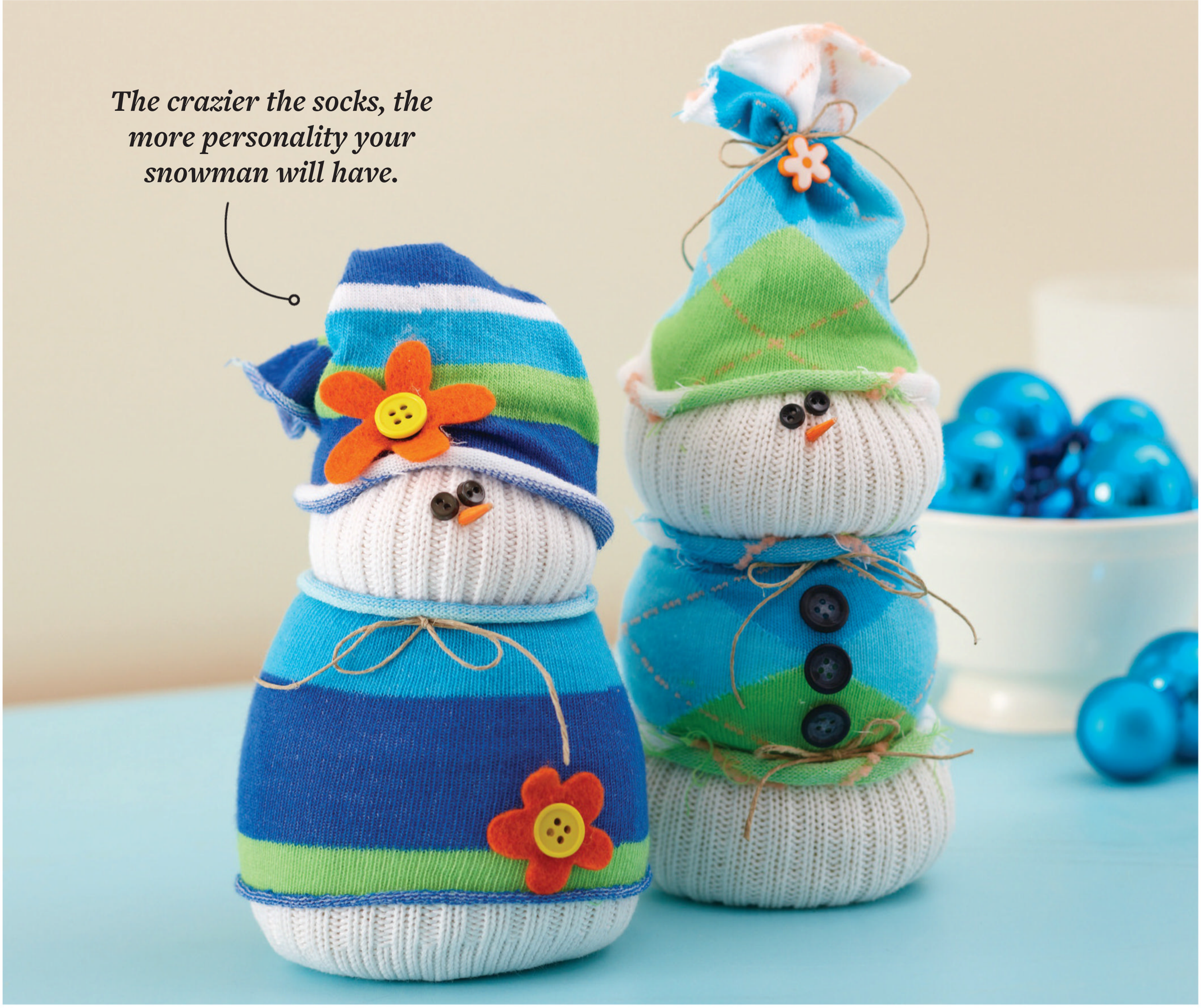
Crafted completely of polymer clay, these picture-perfect snowmen (*left*) display a joyful—albeit flattened—expression. Mounted on patterned paper with double-sided tape and placed inside painted picture frames, they can hang around all winter long. Or, if you prefer, bend a wire in a U shape for a hanging hook and stick it in the top of a hat before baking the clay.

DESIGNER: LISA AMMERMAN

SNOW PALS

Keep the coats in the closet and the boots by the door: You won't need to brave frigid temps to build this duo (*below*). White tube socks stuffed with rice give the frosty couple their plump appearance, and pieces of striped and argyle socks make colorful hats and sweaters.

DESIGNER: AMY WILLIAMS



The crazier the socks, the more personality your snowman will have.

SOFT TOUCH

A medley of thick faux lamb's-ears leaves and felt balls (*left*) can't help but garner attention. Arranged in singles and pairs on a plywood ring, the leaves show off the delicate detailing of a stitched center line. Three colors of felt balls cluster through the ring of leaves, imparting depth and texture.

DESIGNER: LIBERTI VAN GASS

Reimagined

SIMPLIFIED LEAVES AND WOOD BERRIES STILL GIVE A COZY LOOK AND A SOFT TOUCH.

BERRY MERRY

Irresistibly soft and fuzzy, hand-dyed felt updates this holly-like wreath. Once the wool felt is dyed, the strips are felted to achieve the textural look. Dyed wooden balls mimic clusters of berries.

DESIGNER: KIM HUTCHISON

Instructions

SOFT TOUCH

shown *opposite*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 14×14-inch piece of ¾-inch plywood
- ☐ Jigsaw
- ☐ ¼ yard of ⅛-inch-thick wool felt: green
- ☐ Sewing thread: white
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ 100—20-millimeter felt balls: white, light green, dark green
- ☐ Sawtooth hanger

CUT OUT THE BASE AND LEAVES

Draw a 13-inch-diameter circle on the plywood. Draw an 11-inch-diameter circle inside the 13-inch circle. Cut along the lines using a jigsaw to make a ring for the wreath base.

Trace leaf pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace pattern 54 times onto wool felt; cut out shapes. Machine-stitch through the center of each leaf using white sewing thread.

ASSEMBLE THE WREATH

Place leaves on the plywood ring, arranging them evenly in pairs or individually with the curved leaf edges facing inside and outside the ring. When satisfied with the arrangement, hot-glue leaves to ring.

Arrange the felt balls in center of ring, covering straight edges of leaves. Start with one color, and hot-glue balls to ring before adding a new ball color, then layer on subsequent colors one by one.

Attach sawtooth hanger to back of wreath for hanging.

BERRY MERRY

shown *opposite*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 1 yard wool/rayon blend felt
- ☐ Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- ☐ ½ yard 100% wool felt
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Dyes: Sage, Evergreen, Wine, Cherry Red (such as Rit Dye)
- ☐ 2 plastic tubs for dyeing
- ☐ Rubber gloves
- ☐ Dye fixative (such as Rit ColorStay Dye Fixative)
- ☐ Assorted wooden balls
- ☐ Large cookie sheet or cake pan not used for food
- ☐ Old pillowcases
- ☐ Wire wreath form
- ☐ Crafts felt cut into strips: green
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Florists wire

CUT AND DYE THE STRIPS

Using a rotary cutter, cut the wool/rayon blend felt into 4-inch-wide strips. Cut the 100% wool felt into 3- to 4½-inch-wide strips.

Cover work area with paper towels. Following manufacturer's instructions, prepare one of the green dye colors in one of the plastic tubs. Prepare dye fixative in the second tub. While wearing gloves, wet a few of the felt strips under water then submerge them in the green dye, stirring occasionally and stopping once desired color is achieved. Remove strips from tub; squeeze to remove excess dye. Submerge the dyed strips in the dye fixative and stir for time recommended in manufacturer's instructions. Repeat to dye all wool felt strips in shades of green. Let strips dry.

DYE THE BEADS

Following manufacturer's instructions, prepare red dye in plastic tubs and dye fixative in the other tub. Using the same process, dye an assortment of wooden balls until desired color is achieved. Place dyed balls onto a paper towel-lined cookie sheet; let dry.

CUT AND FELT THE STRIPS

When dyed strips are completely dry, fold each strip in half lengthwise. Make fringe-like cuts approximately 1 inch apart into the bottom of each strip to within 1 inch of center; repeat along the top of the strip. Trim the areas between each cut to resemble the rounded tip of a leaf. Repeat with each green strip.

Divide the strips by their colors and place each grouping in an old pillowcase; knot the tops of each pillowcase. Place pillowcases in a washing machine and run a short, warm water cycle. When cycle is complete, place pillowcases in a dryer and run a short, warm cycle. Remove strips from pillowcases by carefully untangling the strips; lay the strips out to finish air-drying.

FINISH THE WREATH

Cover the wire wreath form with strips of green felt; hot-glue in place. Hot-glue one end of a leaf-cut strip to the wreath; wrap the strip around the wreath. Repeat with all strips until entire wreath is covered with leaf-cut strips. Arrange the leaves as desired.

Hot-glue dyed balls to wool to resemble clusters of berries. Cut a 12-inch length of florists wire; fold in half. Insert one wire end through back of wreath; twist wire ends together, leaving a loop for hanging.

SNAPPY DESIGN

shown on *page 70*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Fusible web
- ☐ 2—18×24-inch rectangles of white wool felt (calendar front and back)
- ☐ 13×16-inch piece of light green wool felt (tree and package)
- ☐ 2-inch square of brown wool felt (trunk)
- ☐ 4-inch square of gray wool felt (tree bucket)
- ☐ ⅛ yard of yellow wool felt (star and ornaments)
- ☐ ¼ yard of red wool felt (package and ornaments)
- ☐ Scraps of white wool felt (package tag, bows, ribbons)
- ☐ Matching embroidery floss
- ☐ Matching sewing thread
- ☐ Clear seed beads
- ☐ Beading needle
- ☐ Water-soluble marking pen
- ☐ 48 size 3/0 snaps
- ☐ ⅛ yard each of light pink, light blue, dark green, dark pink, and coral wool felt (ornaments and packages)
- ☐ Scallop-edge scissors
- ☐ 3—1½×4-inch rectangles of white wool felt (hanging tabs)
- ☐ Straight pins
- ☐ 18-inch length of ⅜-inch dowel
- ☐ Acrylic paint: light green
- ☐ 1-inch foam brush
- ☐ String or yarn (for hanging)

PREPARE THE APPLIQUÉS

Enlarge patterns in *Pattern Pack*. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over all patterns except ornament. Use a pencil to trace patterns, leaving about ½ inch between tracings. Cut out each fusible web shape roughly ¼ inch outside traced lines.

Draw a 2¼×5¼-inch rectangle, a 2¼×2½-inch rectangle, a 3-inch square, and a 3⅛-inch square for packages onto paper side of fusible web, leaving about ½ inch between tracings. Cut out each fusible web shape roughly ¼ inch outside traced lines.

Following manufacturer's instructions and referring to photo, *right,* press fusible-web shapes onto wrong sides of designated felt colors; let cool. Cut out felt shapes on drawn lines. Peel off paper backings.

APPLIQUÉ THE CALENDAR FRONT

Referring to the photo, lay out the tree, trunk, and bucket on one 18×24-inch white wool felt rectangle, overlapping the pieces as shown. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse pieces in place. Using matching embroidery floss, topstitch around each piece ⅛ inch from each edge.

Arrange packages under tree, overlapping pieces as shown in photo, and position star on top of tree. Fuse in place. Place tag, bows, and ribbons on packages; fuse in place. Using matching floss, topstitch around each piece ⅛ inch from each edge.

Using matching sewing thread, stitch clear seed beads to the star and to the flower bow.

PREPARE THE CALENDAR BACK

Referring to the photo, use a water-soluble fabric marking pen to mark 24 dots 1½ inches apart in three rows of eight near one short edge of the remaining 18×24-inch white wool felt rectangle. Stitch the bottom half of a snap on each dot.

PREPARE THE ORNAMENTS

Enlarge and trace ornament pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Using a water-soluble fabric marking pen, trace the ornament pattern on light pink, light blue, yellow, dark green, red, dark pink, and coral wool felt to make 24 matching pairs. Cut out ornaments using scallop-edge scissors.

Sort ornament pieces into 24 matching pairs (a front and a back). Using matching sewing thread, sew clear seed beads as desired in center of each front piece. Sew the top half of a snap in center of each ornament back piece.

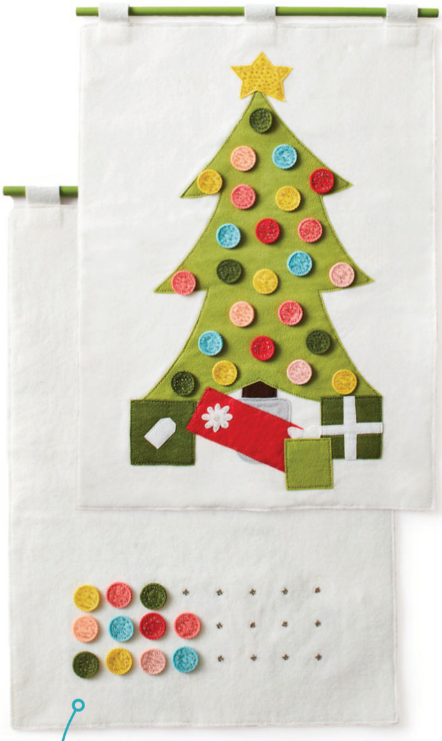
Using matching floss and stitching ⅛ inch from outside edge, sew together each ornament pair with wrong sides together. Arrange ornaments on the tree as desired. Using a water-soluble pen, make a small mark on the tree aligning with the snap on each ornament. Remove ornaments. Sew the bottom half of a snap to each mark on tree. Discard or reserve remaining top halves of snaps for another use.

ASSEMBLE THE CALENDAR

Fold each 1½×4-inch white wool felt rectangle in half to measure 1½×2 inches. Pin loose ends of tabs to back top of calendar front, placing one tab in the center and the remaining two tabs 1 inch from each top corner.

With wrong sides together and stitching ¼ inch from each edge, topstitch together the calendar front and back, encasing the tab ends in the seam. Fasten ornaments to snaps on the back of the calendar.

Paint the dowel light green; let dry. Insert the dowel through the felt tabs. Attach a long string to dowel as a hanging loop, positioning it under each tip of the dowel, as shown on *page 70*. Tie ends together.



Never lose a piece. Snaps on the calendar back keep the felt ornaments attached but out of sight when they're not on the tree.

REINDEER GAMES

shown on *page 71*

MATERIALS (for one figure)

- ☐ Wood eggs: 2-inch (head) and 2½-inch (body)
- ☐ Drill and drill bits
- ☐ Bamboo skewers
- ☐ Glue: wood, crafts, fabric
- ☐ ¾-inch-thick 4-inch-diameter wood disk (base)
- ☐ Assorted artists brushes
- ☐ Acrylic paint: winter white, raw sienna, mint green, dark pink, dark green, black, tan, pink
- ☐ Scrap of brown felt
- ☐ Needle-nose pliers
- ☐ 2—12-inch lengths of 19-gauge annealed-steel wire
- ☐ Artists eraser
- ☐ Fine-tip permanent marker: black
- ☐ Colored pencil: dark brown
- ☐ Clear acrylic spray finish: matte
- ☐ Chenille pipe cleaners: white
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Mica flakes
- ☐ 1¼×8-inch strip of felted wool: green or red

ASSEMBLE THE BODY

Using a drill bit slightly larger than the diameter of a bamboo skewer, drill a hole halfway into the 2-inch wood egg near the wide end. Dab wood glue onto end of a skewer and push into the hole; let dry.

Using the same bit, drill four holes for legs approximately 1 inch apart in a square pattern in the center top of the wood base. Paint base winter white; let dry.

Drill four holes for legs about ¾ inch apart into the 2½-inch wood egg. Cut four 5½-inch lengths of skewer. Dab wood glue onto one end of each piece and insert glued ends into holes in body; let dry. Dab glue on remaining skewer ends and insert into base; let dry.

Drill a hole into top of narrow end of body. Trim bamboo skewer attached to head to about 2 inches. Dab glue on the skewer end and insert it into top of body, leaving about 1¾ inches of skewer exposed between body and head for neck; let dry.

Drill hole in top back of body for tail. Drill a line of four holes ½ inch apart across the top back of head for ears and antlers.

Trace ear pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace two ears onto brown felt; cut out.

Referring to Antler Template, *below,* use needle-nose pliers to bend each length of wire into an antler. Make a large loop and small loop, then twist the wire around itself to secure. Trim 1 inch below lowest loop.

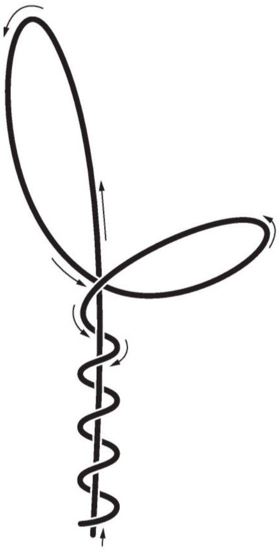
PAINT THE REINDEER

Paint head, felt ears, and body using raw sienna. Paint legs mint green or dark pink. Paint narrow dark green or black stripes on legs about 1 inch apart. Paint ½-inch-long black hooves at bottom of legs.

Draw outline of snout with a pencil. Paint snout and inside of ears winter white. Use an artists eraser to clean up pencil lines.

Using a fine-tip black permanent marker, draw outline of nose and eyes. Paint nose and eyes black. Add shading around eyes, nose, and snout using dark brown colored pencil. Add tan highlights to eyes. Add pink cheek circles, and paint inner ears pink.

Seal figure and base using clear acrylic spray; let dry.



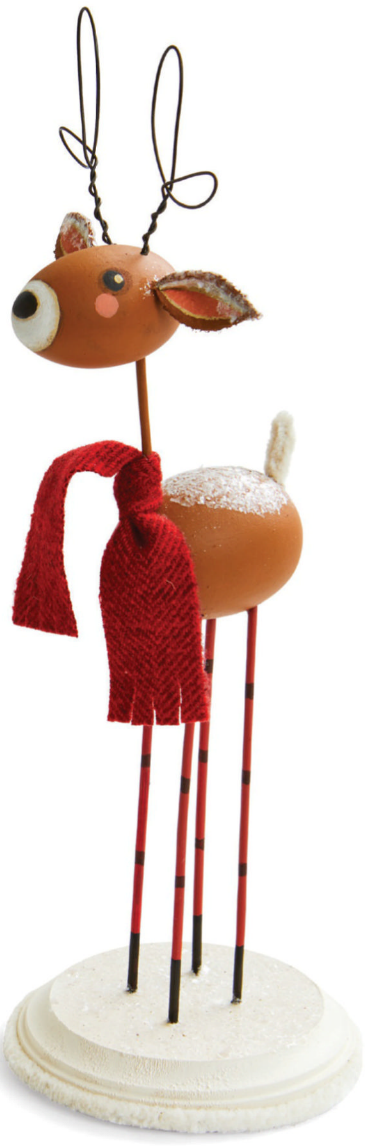
REINDEER GAMES
ANTLER TEMPLATE

FINISH THE FIGURE

Cut a 2-inch length of pipe cleaner; fold in half. Dab hot glue onto cut ends and push ends into tail hole. Add hot glue to antler ends and push antlers into center holes in head. Dab crafts glue on a pointed end of each ear and push glued ends into remaining holes in head. Brush tops of ears, back of body, and top of base with crafts glue. Sprinkle with mica flakes; let dry.

Tie felted-wool strip around neck for a scarf. Fringe scarf ends with scissors.

Use fabric glue to attach a 12-inch pipe cleaner around base. Fill in with a short piece of pipe cleaner on back, if needed.



Instructions

CHILDLIKE WONDER

shown on *page 72*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Oven-bake polymer clay: beige, white, light blue, brown (such as Sculpey)
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Polymer clay slicing tool (optional)
- ☐ Acrylic clay roller
- ☐ Baking sheet

MAKE MARY AND JOSEPH

Break off and knead a small section of beige clay to soften. Roll the clay into a ball to make a head; set aside. Repeat to make a second beige head.

Break off and knead together two sections of white clay. Roll into a ball and set aside. Break off and knead two more sections of white clay; roll into a second ball.

Roll each large white clay ball into a teardrop-shape body. Flatten the top (narrow end) and bottom (wide end). Break a toothpick in half. Poke the blunt end of one toothpick half into the center top of a body. Push a beige head onto pointed end of toothpick. Repeat to attach remaining head to other body.

MAKE BABY JESUS

Break off one section of beige clay. Cut the section in half with a slicing tool; knead and roll each half into a ball. Shape one ball into an oval-shape body. The remaining ball will be baby's head.

Break a toothpick into three equal parts. Discard bottom two sections. Poke the blunt end of top toothpick section into one end of the body; push head onto pointed end to make Baby Jesus.

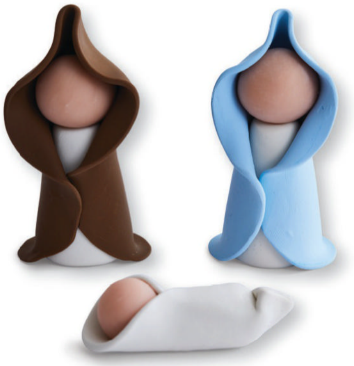
FINISH THE FIGURES

Break off and knead one section each of white, light blue, and brown clay; roll each piece into a ball.

Using an acrylic clay roller, roll the white ball into a circle wide enough to wrap around baby's body. Place baby body on top of the circle and wrap each side of circle over the body. Fold and tuck bottom of circle over bottom of body to finish Baby Jesus.

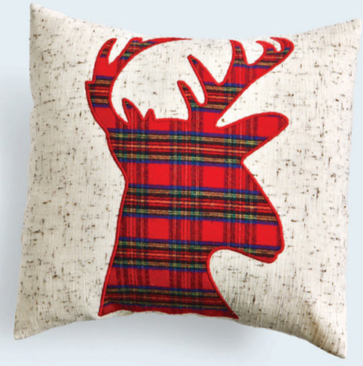
Roll the light blue and brown clay balls each into a flat rounded triangle large enough to cover a remaining body. Lay a body on a triangle (cloak) so the bottom straight edge of triangle extends slightly past bottom of body. Referring to the photo, *below,* pinch side edges of cloak around the body. Place body upright and shape bottom edge of cloak to flare out around bottom of body. Shape top of cloak into a point and gently shape cloak around head.

Bake the clay, following clay manufacturer's instructions; cool completely.



Oven-bake clay and sculpting tools shape beautiful results. Roller guides ensure consistent thicknesses, while shaping tools form precise designs.

Before cutting, wash all fabrics to avoid bleeding and puckering.



GLAD FOR PLAID

shown on *page 72*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Fusible web
- ☐ 16-inch square of red plaid fabric
- ☐ Cream fabric: 17-inch square and 2—12×17-inch rectangles
- ☐ 17-inch square of tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ Sewing thread: red and cream
- ☐ 16-inch square pillow form

Measurements include ½-inch seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

PREPARE THE APPLIQUÉ

Enlarge reindeer pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over reindeer pattern. Use a pencil to trace the pattern. Cut out fusible-web shape roughly ¼ inch outside traced lines.

Following manufacturer's instructions, press fusible-web shape onto red plaid fabric; let cool. Cut out shape on drawn lines. Peel off paper backing. Fuse reindeer appliqué centered on cream fabric square.

SEW THE PILLOW

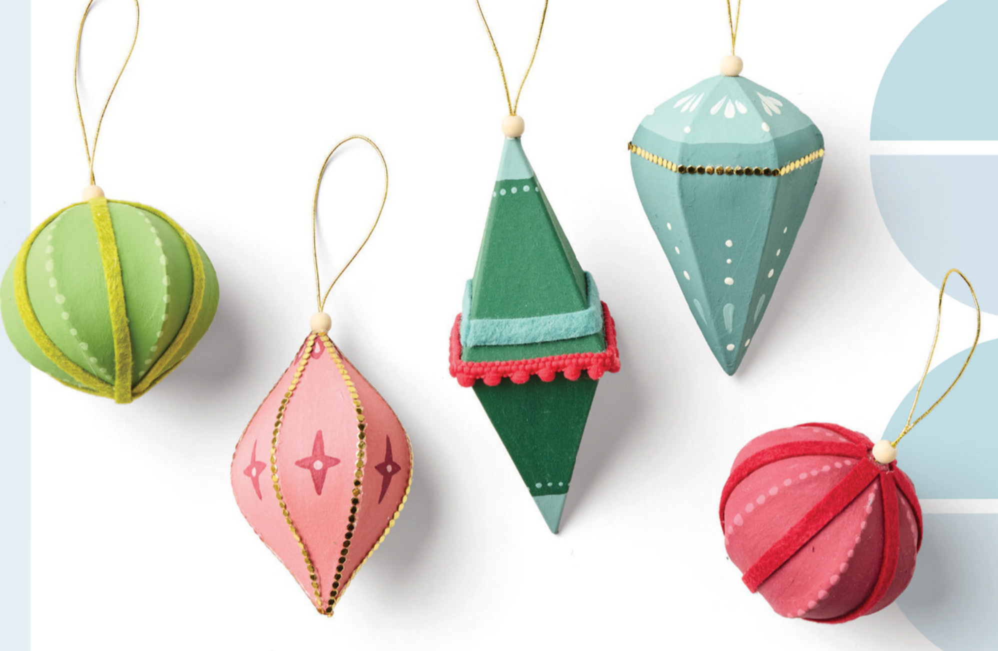
Pin tear-away stabilizer to back of fused cream fabric. Using red sewing thread, machine-satin-stitch around all edges of the reindeer to complete the pillow top.

Turn under one long edge of each 12×17-inch cream rectangle ½ inch; press. Turn under same edges ½ inch again and stitch close to each folded edge using cream thread.

Overlap hemmed edges of pillow back pieces 5 inches to make a 17-inch square. Baste overlapped edges to make pillow back.

Layer pillow top and pillow back with right sides together. Stitch around all outside edges. Turn right side out.

Insert pillow form through back opening.



BITS AND BAUBLES

shown on *page 73*

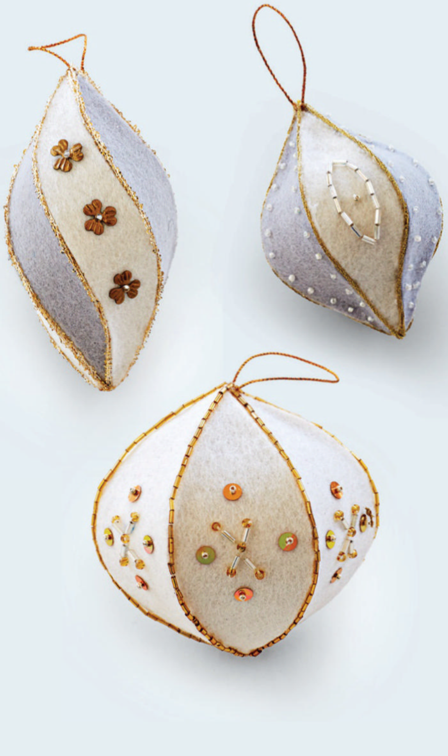
MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted papier-mâché ornaments with hanging loops
- ☐ Wool felt: ivory and light gray
- ☐ Disappearing-ink marking pen
- ☐ Beading needle and bead thread
- ☐ Beads: gold bugle, silver bugle, gold seed, silver seed, pearl seed
- ☐ Sequins: gold round and gold flowers
- ☐ Fabric glue (such as Fabri-Tac)
- ☐ Fine-tip quick-setting glue pen
- ☐ Assorted metallic cords: gold

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto paper; cut out. Trace six panels for each ornament onto desired wool felt; cut out. **Note:** Due to variances in papier-mâché ornaments, you may need to trim the wool felt to fit the panels. If desired, make your own patterns by laying tracing paper over each panel and tracing the shape.

Using a disappearing-ink marking pen and referring to the photo, *below,* mark a design on each panel. Using a beading needle and bead thread, stitch beads and sequins to the panels.

Adhere panels to ornaments with fabric glue. Use fine-tip glue pen to adhere metallic cord to ornament edges between panels; trim the cord ends.



JEWEL-TONE TRIMMINGS

shown on *page 73*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted papier-mâché ornaments with hanging loops
- ☐ Bamboo skewers
- ☐ Chalk paint: light pink, dark pink, light green, dark green, light blue, dark blue, white
- ☐ Artist paintbrushes
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Wool felt cut into narrow strips: red, blue, green
- ☐ Sequin trim: gold
- ☐ ⅜-inch pom-pom trim: red
- ☐ Gold cording
- ☐ Small wooden beads

Remove cording hanger loop from ornament. Thread ornament onto bamboo skewer. Apply chalk paint to all ornament surfaces using desired color; let dry. Apply a second coat; let dry. Repeat for each ornament.

Using a fine-tip paintbrush and desired paint colors, paint dots, stripes, or other designs on each ornament; let dry.

Hot-glue wool felt strips, sequin trim ribbon, or pom-pom trim to ornaments.

Cut a 12-inch length of gold cording; fold in half. Thread ends through a bead; knot. Hot-glue bead to top of ornament. Repeat for each ornament.

Resources

Papier-mâché craft ornaments are available in various shapes and sizes online or in crafts stores. Here are some of our favorite places to buy them:

factorydirectcraft.com *michaels.com* *amazon.com*

Borrow from your at-home craft stash or look for items in crafts stores to embellish your own papier-mâché creations. Some ideas include:

- Assorted beads: various sizes and shapes
- Assorted large sequins: various shapes
- Buttons
- Metallic cords
- Ribbon
- Pom-pom trim
- Sequin trim
- Metallic paint markers
- Stamps with ink
- Glass glitter

Instructions

SNOW PALS

shown on *page 75*

MATERIALS (for one Snow Pal)

- ☐ One midcalf or knee-high white tube sock
- ☐ Rubber bands
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Pair of decorative ankle socks
- ☐ Twine or ribbon
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Assorted small buttons
- ☐ Wooden skewer
- ☐ Acrylic paint: orange

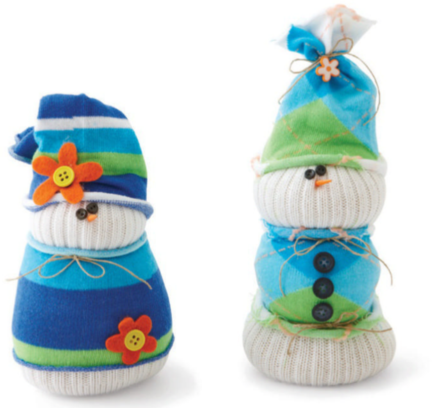
MAKE THE BODY

Cut off and discard foot portion of white tube sock. Turn the tube inside out and wrap a rubber band tightly around the bottom (where foot portion was attached). Turn the tube right side out so rubber band is inside the sock.

Fill sock with rice, pushing it down into sock as you fill. Continue until sock stretches and is plump. Wrap a rubber band around the open end.

DRESS THE SNOWMAN

Cut off heel and toe from one decorative ankle sock. Cut off heel of other ankle sock. Pull the sock without the heel and toe over the snowman; center it on snowman for a sweater. Squeeze the snowman body at the lower edge of sweater, pushing the rice down to create a solid base. Tie a piece of twine or ribbon around the bottom of the sweater. Repeat, squeezing snowman and tying with twine at the top of the sweater if desired.



Place the sock without the heel on top of snowman for a hat. Tie a twine bow around the toe end of sock. Hot-glue a button or other embellishment to the hat, if desired. Hot-glue small buttons on head for eyes and, if desired, on sweater.

Cut off the pointed end of a wooden skewer and paint it orange; let dry. Hot-glue point to the head for a nose.

WINTER PORTRAITS

shown on *page 75*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Polymer clay (such as Sculpey III or Premo Sculpey): white, pearl, black, green pearl, red, orange, and desired color for hatband
- ☐ Rolling pin
- ☐ Crafts knife
- ☐ Stylus
- ☐ Soft-bristle artists brush
- ☐ Cosmetic blush
- ☐ Wire
- ☐ Glass baking dish
- ☐ Paint pen: white

FORM SNOWMAN HEAD

Trace desired snowman patterns in the *Pattern Pack* onto tracing paper and cut out.

Mix equal amounts white clay and pearl clay. Blend completely. Using a rolling pin, roll clay to ⅛ inch thick. Using tracing-paper pattern and a crafts knife, cut out the head from the clay.

Roll black clay to ⅛ inch thick. Cut out hat from clay. Place hat on head, referring to dashed line on head pattern for overlap. Press pieces gently together.

ADD THE FEATURES

Roll desired color of clay for hatband until very thin. Cut hatband from clay to fit hat. Place band above hat brim. Draw lines on the hatband with the stylus.

Roll green pearl clay until very thin. Cut out two holly leaves. Referring to photo, *left* or *right,* place leaves on hatband. Roll three tiny balls of red clay and place between the holly leaves. Draw veins on leaves and add a dot to each berry with the stylus.

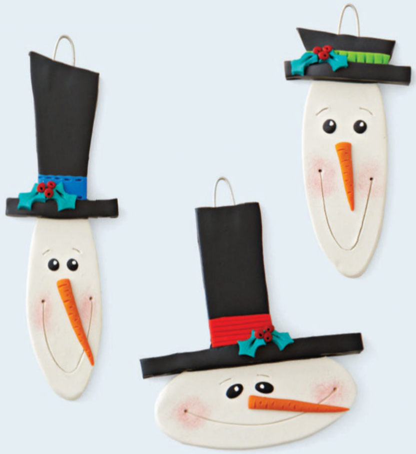
Using a soft-bristle paintbrush, brush blush onto cheeks.

Roll two small balls or egg shapes of black clay and place on snowman face for eyes. Press eyes completely into face. Using the stylus, draw on a smile and eyebrows.

Roll orange clay to ⅛ inch thick. Cut out a triangle (make it long and skinny or short and fat) for the nose. Place nose on face and press the pieces gently together. Draw details on the nose using the stylus. Attach a U-shape wire to top edge of hat for a hanger.

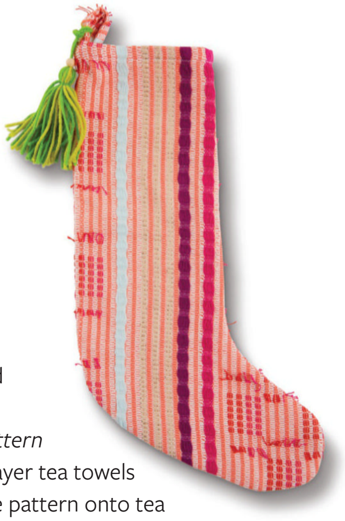
BAKE THE SNOWMAN

Place snowman head in a glass baking dish and bake following manufacturer's instructions; let cool. Dot the eyes with a white paint pen.



STOCKING SURPRISE

shown on *page 74*



MATERIALS
(for one stocking)

- ☐ Two cotton tea towels
- ☐ Matching sewing thread
- ☐ Yarn: red, green, and/or gold
- ☐ 5-inch cardboard square
- ☐ 1—¼-inch round wooden bead

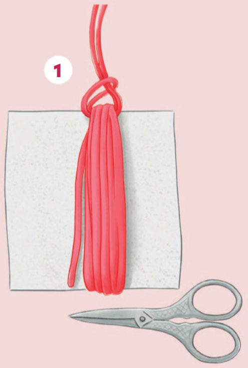
Enlarge the stocking pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Layer tea towels with right sides together and trace pattern onto tea towels, using a hemmed edge as the stocking top.

With right sides together, sew around edges, leaving top open; turn right side out. To make a hanging loop, cut a 2×7-inch strip from leftover tea towel. Fold both long edges to center and then fold lengthwise in half to enclose raw edges; topstitch. Fold in half crosswise and stitch short raw edges inside stocking top.

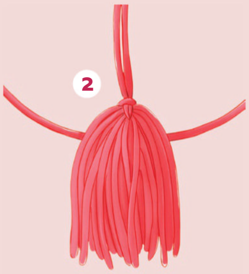
Tie on a bead-accented yarn tassel.

Make a Tassel

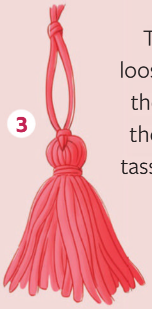
ILLUSTRATOR: ANN MACKEY WEISS



Wrap yarn many times around cardboard or a book. Tie into a bundle at one end; cut other end.



Wrap yarn around the bundle several times near the tied end; tie in place.

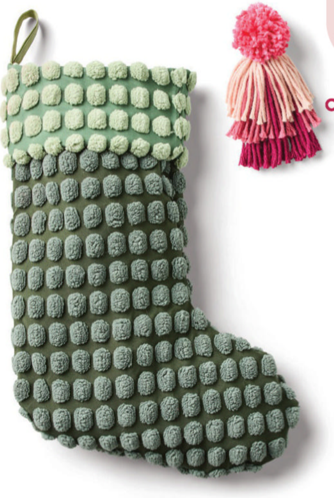


Trim the loose ends of the yarn to the desired tassel length.

Combine a pom-pom on top of a tassel for a fun finished look.
(see instructions *page 94*)

UNDERCOVER HANG-UPS

shown on *page 74*



MATERIALS

- ☐ 2—20-inch square pillow covers in two coordinating colors
- ☐ Matching sewing thread
- ☐ ½-inch double bias tape in coordinating color
- ☐ Narrow ribbon
- ☐ Yarn in assorted colors
- ☐ Pom-pom maker: small
- ☐ Embroidery needle

Trace pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace stocking body pattern onto a pillow cover; cut out through both layers of the pillow cover.

ASSEMBLE THE STOCKING

Place stocking body pieces right sides together. Using a ½-inch seam allowance and matching thread, machine-sew the pieces together around the edges, leaving top open. Turn right side out.

Measure and cut an 8×16-inch rectangle for the cuff from the second pillow form; cut out through one fabric layer.

Fold cuff strip in half crosswise with right sides together. Sew the short sides together with a zigzag stitch; turn right side out. Fold cuff in half lengthwise with right sides facing out.

Cut a 6-inch piece of double bias tape; sew a long seam just inside each long edge. Place cuff inside stocking. Align cuff and stocking raw edges and the side seam on the heel side of the stocking body with the cuff seam; pin. Fold bias tape in half. Place tape between cuff and stocking body, aligning raw edges and side seams; pin. Sew around the top edge with a zigzag stitch. Fold the sewn cuff around to the outside of the stocking body.

To make a hanging loop, cut a 7-inch-long piece of narrow ribbon. Fold in half and stitch to inside of side seam on the heel side of the stocking body.

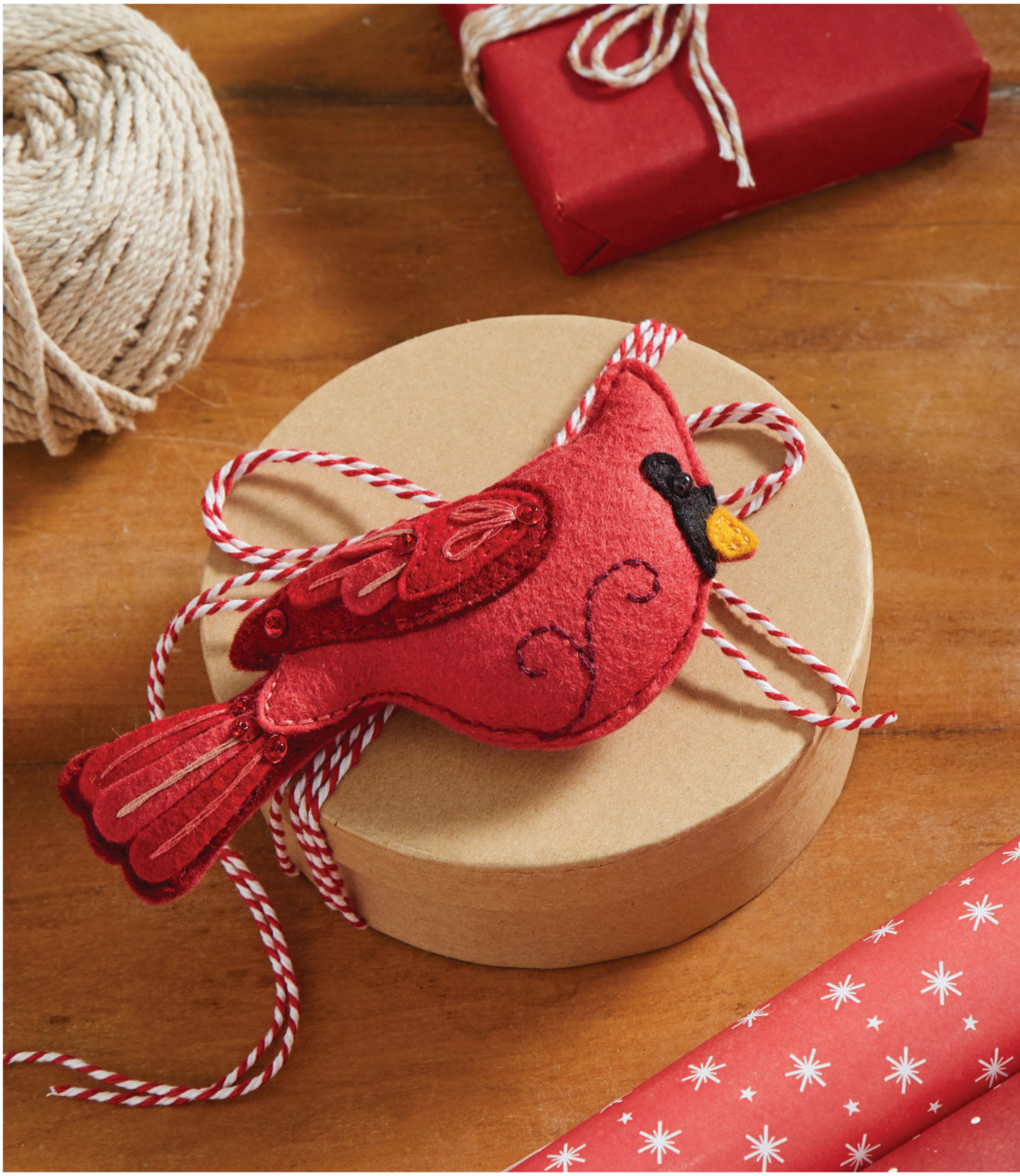
ADD THE POM-POM AND TASSEL

If desired, tie on a pom-pom accented yarn tassel.

Make three tassels (instructions *above*) and one pom-pom (instructions on *page 94*). Thread embroidery needle onto tails of first tassel. Insert needle up through center of each tassel to create a stacked tassel. Insert needle through pom-pom; remove needle. Tie tails around hanging loop.

2020s

Crafting in the 2020s has become both a creative escape and a form of self-care, especially during times of staying home and slowing down. With social media fueling trends in real time, handmade holidays are more heartwarming than ever.



TALL TALE

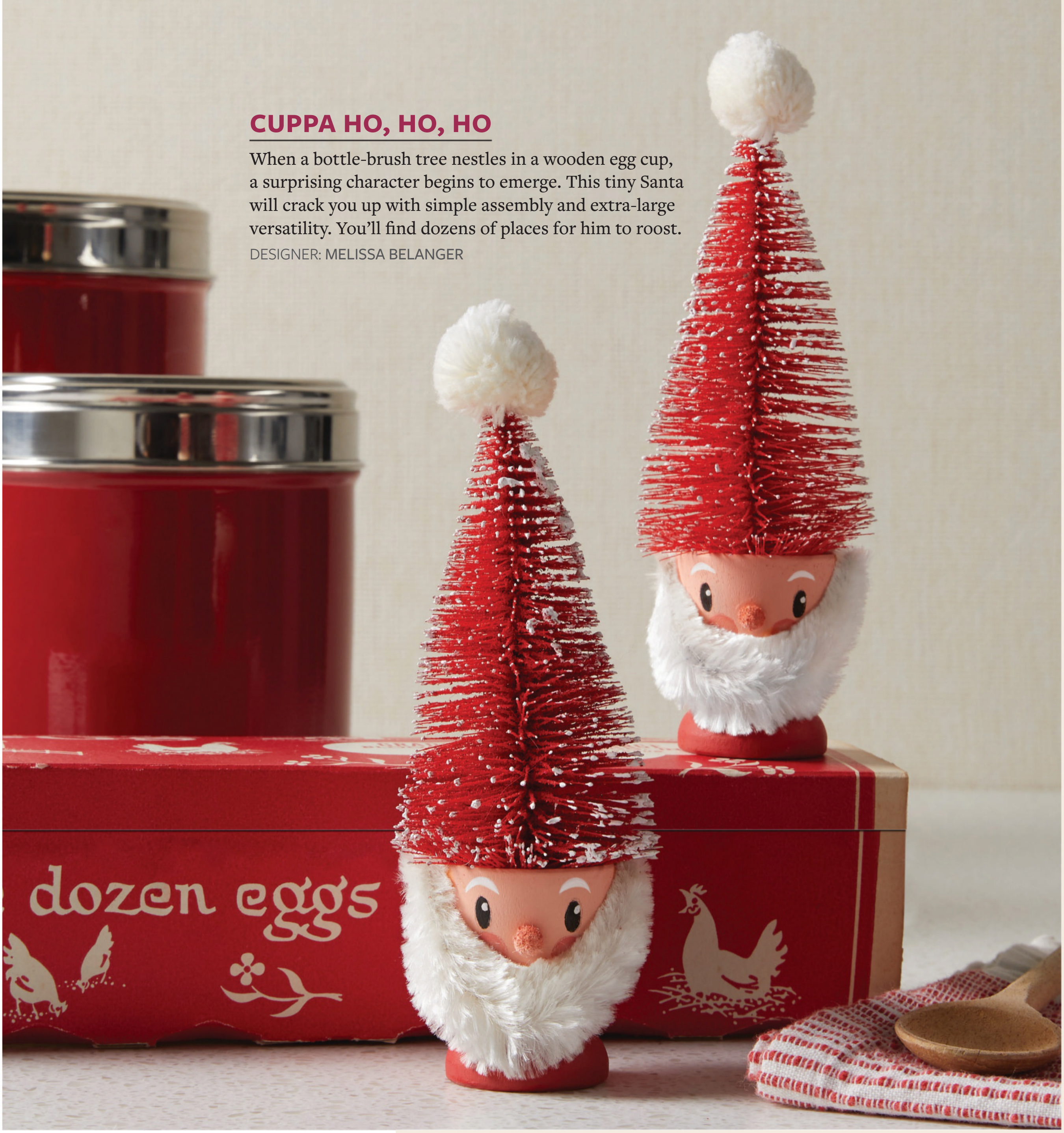
At 42 inches tall, this wooden snowman (*opposite*) catches attention inside or out. Trace our pattern or draw your own on assembled 5½-inch-wide fence pickets. Braces made from leftover lengths of pickets keep the shape together. A wide red ribbon serves as a scarf.

DESIGNERS: **KIMBERLY AND DERRICK MEYER**

SCARLET SERENADE

Perch a cardinal (*above*) on a package or hang one on your tree to signify your devotion. Friends and loved ones will croon a chorus of praise for this keepsake made with felt, embroidery floss, and fiberfill. A few sparkly beads and twinkly sequins amplify the vibrant hues.

DESIGNER: **KELLI RINTA**



CUPPA HO, HO, HO

When a bottle-brush tree nestles in a wooden egg cup, a surprising character begins to emerge. This tiny Santa will crack you up with simple assembly and extra-large versatility. You'll find dozens of places for him to roost.

DESIGNER: **MELISSA BELANGER**

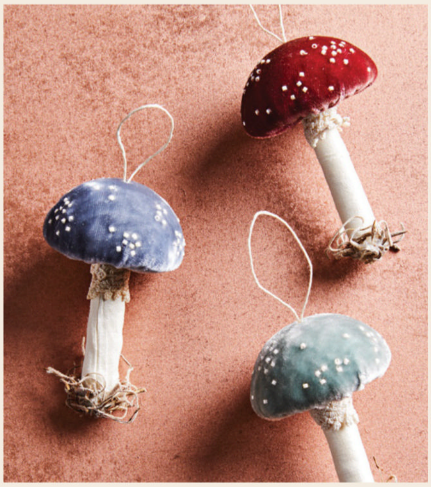
cover star

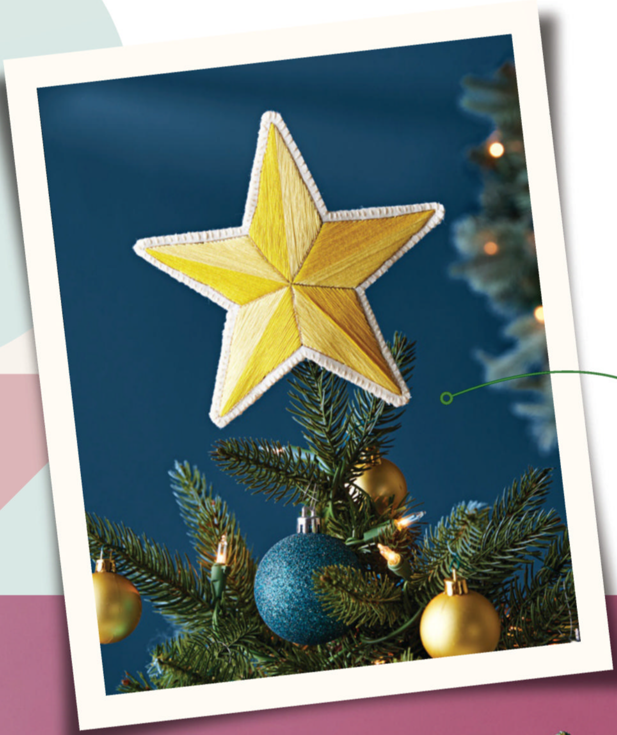
Better Homes & Gardens
HOLIDAY Crafts
Make it magical
87 FESTIVE PROJECTS TO TRY TODAY
ORNAMENTS, WREATHS, STOCKINGS & MORE
CRAFTING TECHNIQUES FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL
NO-FAIL INSTRUCTIONS & PATTERNS INCLUDED
SANTAS MADE FROM EGG CUPS
2020
Bonus! SPOOKY FUN HALLOWEEN PROJECTS

PLUSH CRUSH

Velvet mushrooms (*right*) capture the joy of a nature walk without the winter cold and damp. At only about 3½ inches tall, the darling button-style fungi deliver extraordinary elegance. Velvet-covered caps are studded with glass beads, while the silky stems tout a little moss to simulate forest origins.

DESIGNER: **JILL BURGESS**





TOP GLOW

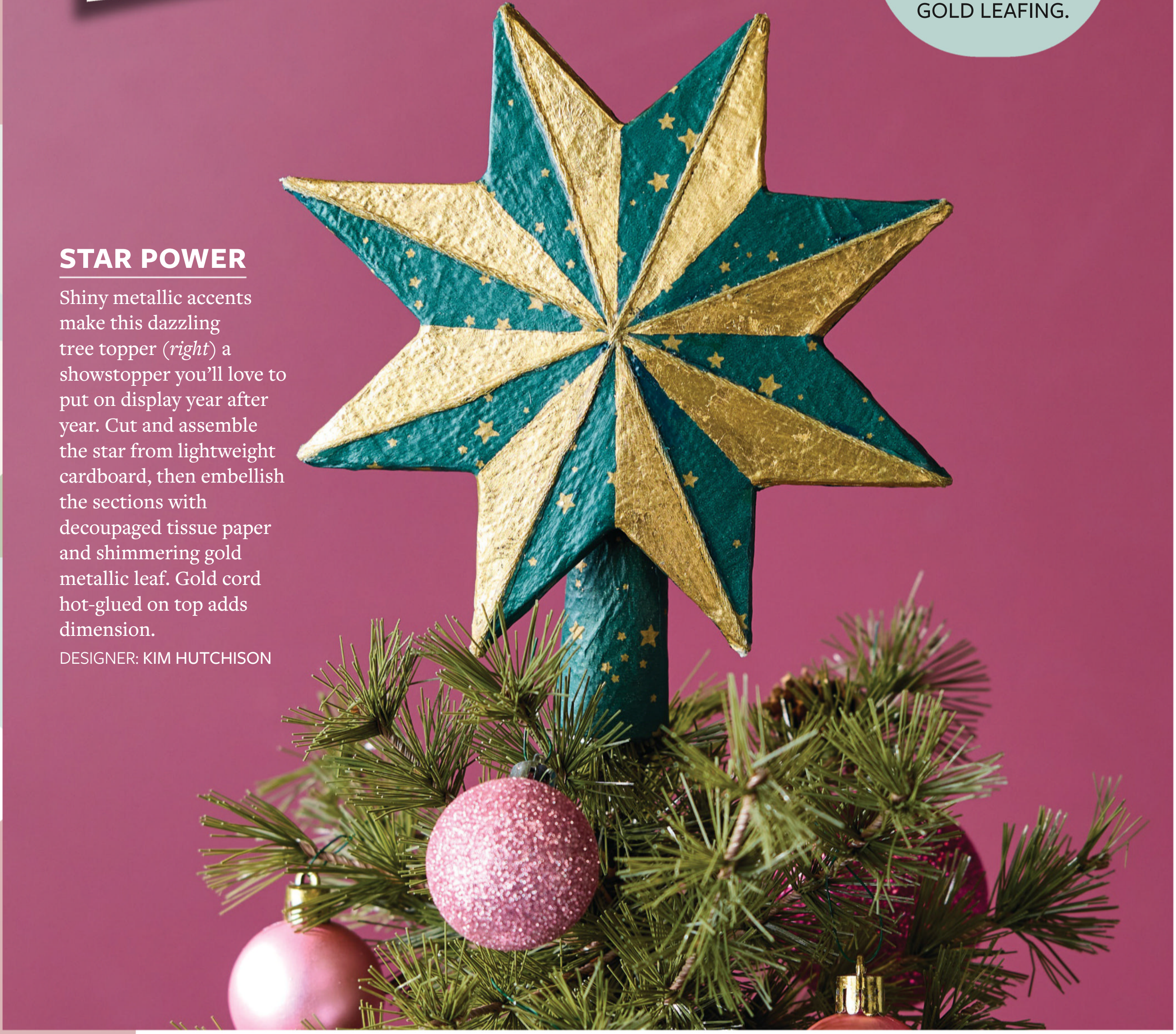
Long satin stitches and two shades of yellow embroidery floss define a tree topper with dimensional impact (*left*). At almost 7 inches wide, the tree topper begins with a muslin base that's embroidered then mounted on a felt background. An open pocket on the back slips easily onto the top of the Christmas tree.

DESIGNER: **ASTRID REICHENBACH**

Metallic gold embroidery floss outlines the star's two-tone arms.

Reimagined

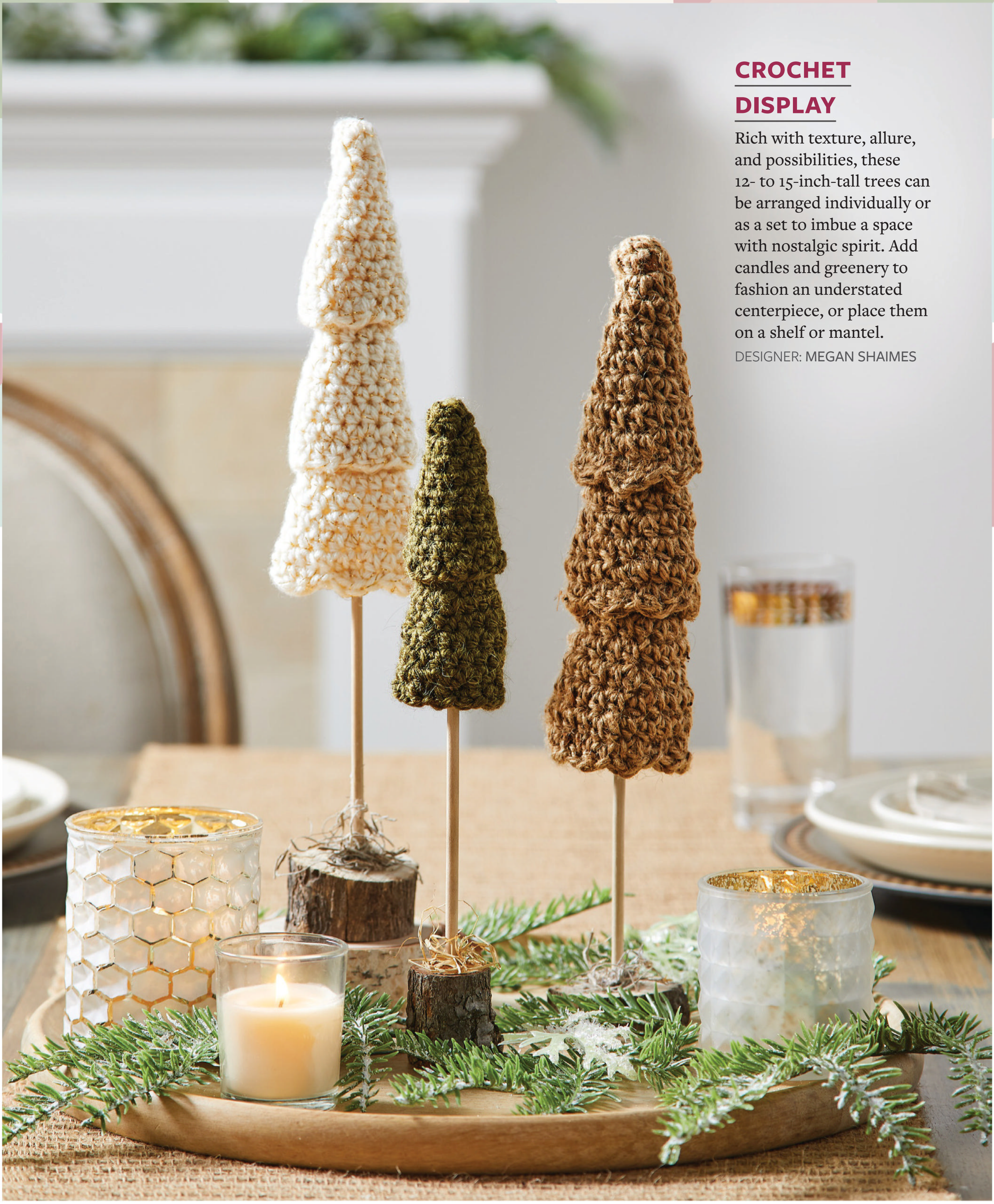
OUR NEW STAR SHINES BRIGHT WITH DECOUPAGED TISSUE PAPER AND GOLD LEAFING.



STAR POWER

Shiny metallic accents make this dazzling tree topper (*right*) a showstopper you'll love to put on display year after year. Cut and assemble the star from lightweight cardboard, then embellish the sections with decoupaged tissue paper and shimmering gold metallic leaf. Gold cord hot-glued on top adds dimension.

DESIGNER: **KIM HUTCHISON**



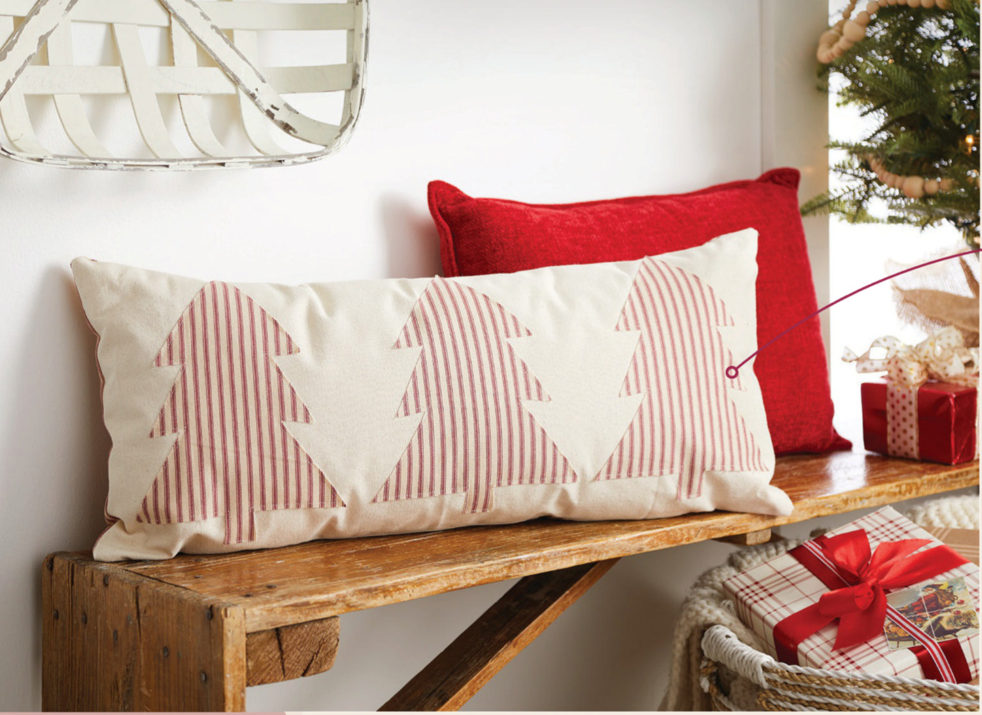
CROCHET DISPLAY

Rich with texture, allure, and possibilities, these 12- to 15-inch-tall trees can be arranged individually or as a set to imbue a space with nostalgic spirit. Add candles and greenery to fashion an understated centerpiece, or place them on a shelf or mantel.

DESIGNER: MEGAN SHAIMES

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

CH – chain
DC – double crochet
HDC – half double crochet
REP – repeat
RND(S) – round(s)
SL ST – slip stitch
ST(S) – stitch(es)



Experiment with colors and patterns of fabric to make trees that match your decor.

TREE LINES

The rustic energy of red ticking endows this lumbar pillow with modern farmhouse chic. Fresh yet traditional, the matching appliqué trees march serenely along the pillow top. Using more ticking on the pillow back adds durability.

DESIGNER: LONDA CLARK

Instructions

CROCHET DISPLAY

shown *opposite*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Worsted-weight (4) yarn: ivory with gold sparkles, taupe, dark green
- ☐ Crochet hook: U.S. G/7 (4.5-millimeter) (or hook size to obtain gauge)
- ☐ 3—12-inch lengths of $\frac{3}{16}$-inch-diameter wood dowel
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Three wood slices
- ☐ Drill and drill bits
- ☐ Dried moss

Note: For each tall tree, follow the instructions for the top, middle, and bottom sections. For a shorter tree, crochet the top and middle sections only. Unless noted, a ch 1 at the beginning of a rnd does not count as a stitch.

See Crochet Abbreviations, *opposite.*

Gauge: 15 hdc by 11 rows = 4 inches square

CROCHET BOTTOM SECTION

With desired yarn, make a magic ring. Ch 1.

Rnd 1: 6 hdc in magic ring. Join to first st with sl st. (6 sts) Tighten the ring, but leave just enough room for dowel.

Rnd 2: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (6 sts)

Rnd 3: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next st, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (9 sts)

Rnd 4: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (9 sts)

Rnd 5: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next two sts, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (12 sts)

Rnd 6: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (12 sts)

Rnd 7: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next three sts, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (15 sts)

Rnd 8: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (15 sts)

Rnd 9: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next four sts, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (18 sts)

Rnd 10: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (18 sts)

Rnd 11: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next five sts, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (21 sts)

Rnd 12: Ch 1, hdc around, join to first st with sl st. (21 sts)

Rnd 13: Ch 1, *work 2 hdc in st, hdc in next six sts, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (24 sts)

Rnd 14: Ch 1, *sl st, dc, rep from *, join to first st with sl st. (24 sts)

Fasten off. Weave in end.

CROCHET MIDDLE SECTION

With desired yarn, follow instructions in Crochet Bottom Section through Rnd 11.

Rnd 12: Follow Rnd 14 in Crochet Bottom Section (21 sts).

Fasten off. Weave in end.

CROCHET TOP SECTION

With desired yarn, follow instructions in Crochet Bottom Section through Rnd 9. Tighten the magic ring completely on this section.

Rnd 10: Follow Rnd 14 in Crochet Bottom Section (18 sts).

Fasten off. Weave in all ends.

ASSEMBLE THE TREE

Slide the tree sections onto a dowel, arranging the pieces as desired. Remove the top and middle sections. Slide the bottom section down the dowel slightly and place a dab of hot glue on the dowel above the section. Slide back up onto the glue; let dry.

Slide the middle section onto the dowel so it sits above the bottom section and hot-glue in place. Placing a dab of hot glue on the dowel end, repeat with the top section.

Trim the dowel to desired height. Drill a hole halfway through the center of a wood slice. Push a dab of hot glue into the hole and push the bottom of the tree dowel into the hole; let dry. Hot-glue moss around the base of the tree.

TALL TALE

shown on *page 84*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 3—6-foot-long, 5½-inch-wide fence pickets
- ☐ Jigsaw or band saw
- ☐ Nail gun and 16-gauge 1-inch finishing nails
- ☐ Miter saw
- ☐ Latex paint: black and antique white
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ 80-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Clear high-gloss polyurethane spray
- ☐ 8-foot length of 6-inch-wide burlap ribbon: red

CUT OUT THE SNOWMAN WITH HAT

Measuring from the straight bottom edges, cut each fence picket to 42 inches long; set aside 30-inch boards.

Enlarge and trace pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Lay three 42-inch boards right sides down with long edges together. Trace snowman pattern across all three boards.

Using a jigsaw or band saw, cut out shape.

ADD THE SUPPORT BRACES AND HAT BRIM

From a 30-inch board, cut four support braces:

- ■ 2—2×12 inches (middle torso and bottom body braces)
- ■ 1—1×10 inches (head brace)
- ■ 1—1×8 inches (hat brace)

Place snowman boards right side down with long edges together. Lay support braces across snowman where indicated in cutting list. Nail braces to snowman, using approximately 8 nails per brace. Turn over snowman and nail from front of snowman into braces.

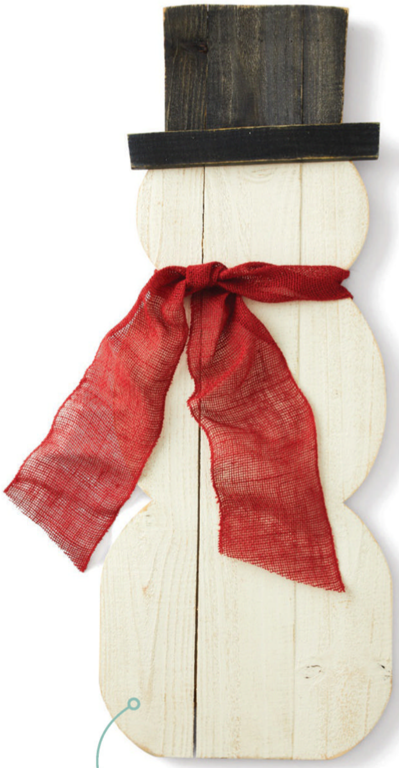
Cut a 2×14-inch rectangle from a 30-inch board for hat brim. Using a miter saw, cut each end at a 5-degree angle. Do not attach brim to hat.

FINISH THE SNOWMAN

Paint hat and hat brim black. Paint snowman head and body antique white. Let dry.

Sand snowman, hat, and hat brim to distress. Nail brim to hat at a slight angle. Coat snowman with clear high-gloss polyurethane spray; let dry.

Tie burlap ribbon around snowman's neck to create the scarf.



Adjust the size and width of your snowman to suit your location, using the pattern as a guide.

SCARLET SERENADE

shown on *page 85*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Disappearing-ink marking pen
- ☐ Wool felt (such as National Nonwovens felt): light red (body, small wing feathers, tail feathers), red (large wing feather, wing cap), dark red (wing, tail), black (face), gold (beak)
- ☐ Fine-tip permanent marking pen
- ☐ Waxed paper
- ☐ Embroidery floss: dark red, black, gold, light red, dusty rose, red
- ☐ Needles: embroidery and beading
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ $\frac{3}{16}$-inch round black bead
- ☐ 6 red sequins
- ☐ 6 red seed beads
- ☐ Polyester fiberfill
- ☐ Silver metallic thread

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Using a disappearing-ink marking pen, trace each shape onto appropriate felt color the number of times indicated on the patterns; cut out. Using a fine-tip permanent marking pen, trace the swirl from the body front pattern onto a small square of waxed paper.

Go to *page 94* to see stitch diagrams. Referring to the pattern for placement, pin the waxed paper with swirl pattern on the body front. Using two strands of dark red embroidery floss, backstitch the swirl through the waxed paper. Tear away waxed paper. Use tweezers to remove small pieces stuck in stitches.

Referring to the body front pattern for placement, pin the black face to the body front. Using one strand of black embroidery floss, backstitch around curved edges, leaving the outside edge along the beak unstitched. Stitch round black bead to the face for the eye.

Pin beak to face, aligning edges with beak on body front. Using one strand of gold floss, backstitch around edges of beak.

ADD THE WING

Stack the body front and back, aligning the head, beak, and belly. Lay wing on top, using the body back as a placement guide. Pin wing to body front; set body back aside.

Using one strand of dark red floss, backstitch the curved edge of wing where pieces overlap. Referring to photo, place red large wing feather in center of wing, with pointed end pointing away from pointed end of wing. Using two strands of light red floss, attach the large wing feather to the wing with a long straight stitch in center of feather.

Referring to photo, place light red small

CUPPA HO, HO, HO

shown on *page 86*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 2-inch wooden egg cup
- ☐ Acrylic paint: desired flesh color, red, black, coral, light yellow, winter white
- ☐ Artists brushes
- ☐ Fabric glue
- ☐ ¼-inch pom-pom: red or pink
- ☐ Fine-tip marking pen: black
- ☐ Artists eraser
- ☐ Clear acrylic spray finish: matte
- ☐ Bumpy chenille stem: white or cream
- ☐ 4¼- to 5-inch-tall bottle-brush tree: red
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ 1-inch pom-pom: white or cream

PAINT THE EGG CUP

Paint the outside of the egg portion of the cup with two coats of desired flesh color, letting dry after each coat.

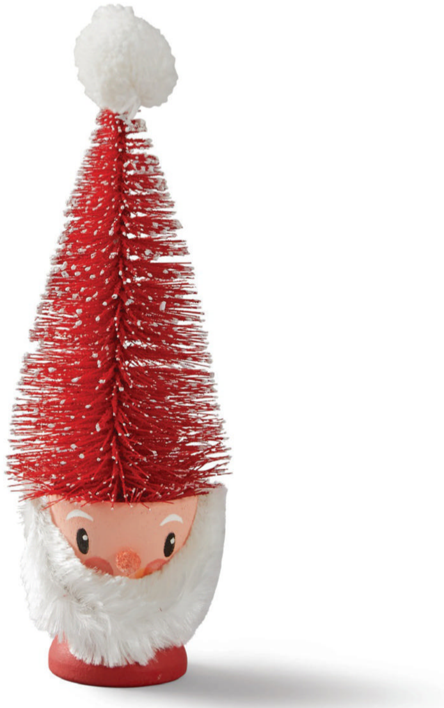
Paint the egg cup base with two coats of red, letting dry after each coat.

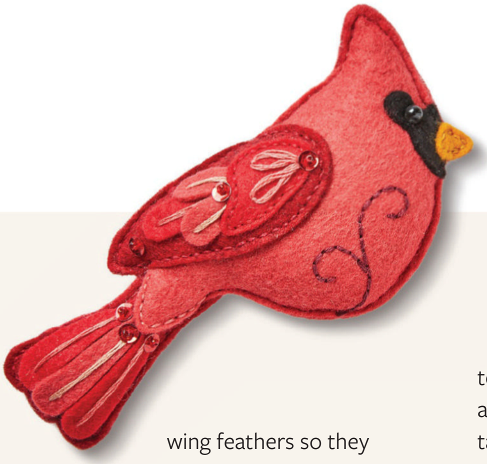
Using fabric glue, adhere the ¼-inch pom-pom to egg cup for nose. Using a pencil and referring to the photo, *right*, draw ovals for eyes. Trace pencil lines with a black fine-tip marking pen. Erase any visible pencil lines. Paint eyes black. Paint cheeks coral. Highlight the eyes with light yellow. Paint eyebrows winter white. Let dry. Apply acrylic spray finish all over egg cup; let dry.

ASSEMBLE THE SANTA

Use fabric glue to adhere a 4-inch length of bumpy chenille stem to the egg cup, bending the piece around the face to make the beard. Trim, if necessary. Glue another 4-inch length of chenille stem around top back edge of egg cup for Santa's hair.

Hot-glue the bottle-brush tree inside the egg cup. Use fabric glue to attach the pom-pom to top of bottle-brush tree; let dry.





Simple embroidery and embellishments make this bird sparkle.

wing feathers so they overlap each side of the red wing feather. Using two strands of dusty rose floss, stitch a long straight stitch in the center of each light red wing feather.

Place red wing cap over the ends of the feathers. Using one strand of red floss, backstitch around wing cap edges. Using two strands of light red floss, stitch two lazy daisy stitches on the wing cap.

ADD THE TAIL

Referring to photo, place a light red tail feather on one side of tail, leaving about ¼ inch of rounded section of tail end exposed. Using two strands of red floss and a long straight stitch, attach the feather to the tail. Overlap first tail feather with another tail feather, leaving ¼ inch at end of tail exposed; use two strands of dusty rose floss to straight-stitch the feather to the tail. Use light red floss to straight-stitch last tail feather, overlapping center feather.

Lay the body front and back together, aligning edges. Place tail between pieces, aligning edges with body back. Pin tail to body front; set body back aside. Use one strand of light red floss to backstitch the body front to the tail where pieces overlap.

EMBELLISH AND FINISH CARDINAL

Using a beading needle and one strand of red floss, stitch a sequin and a red seed bead at base of lazy daisy stitches on wing cap. Stitch another sequin-bead set between the wing cap and light red feathers, then another sequin-bead set near the wing tip. Stitch a sequin-bead set at base of each tail feather.

Pin body front and back together. Starting at top of face and working clockwise, use one strand of matching floss and a ⅛-inch seam to backstitch the pieces together. Use black to stitch face, gold to stitch the beak, and dark red floss for body and tail.

When you reach the top of the tail, begin stuffing the cardinal with polyester fiberfill. Continue stitching across the wing and back, stuffing as you go. For a hanging loop, knot the ends of a 12-inch length of silver metallic thread. Insert knot between the cardinal layers, just below the head crest. Keep backstitching around the crest and to top of face, securing the silver thread and stuffing the bird as you work.

Instructions

PLUSH CRUSH

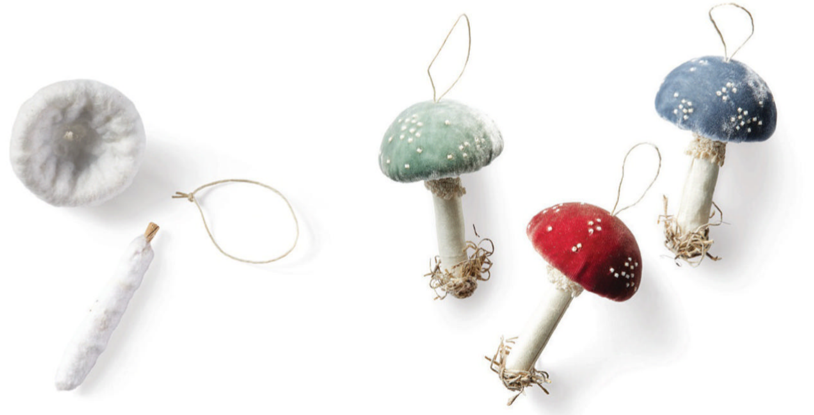
shown on *page 86*

MATERIALS (for one mushroom)

- ☐ 2-inch foam ball
- ☐ Crafts glue
- ☐ Foam brush
- ☐ Batting: 4-inch circle and ¾×18-inch strip (such as The Warm Company, Warm & White brand)
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Needles: large tapestry and sewing
- ☐ Sewing thread
- ☐ 4½-inch circle of silk velvet: burgundy, blue-gray, or celadon
- ☐ 6-inch length of thin cord (hanger)
- ☐ Small glass seed beads: white
- ☐ 2½-inch length of paper-wrapped wire
- ☐ 2½×3-inch piece of silk fabric: white or cream
- ☐ Scrap of lace
- ☐ Spanish moss

MAKE THE MUSHROOM CAP

Use a knife to cut the foam ball in half. Using a fork, hollow out center of one half, leaving a ¼-inch ridge around edge. Brush crafts glue onto rounded part of half-ball; place batting circle onto wet glue. Smooth out batting and trim edges, leaving 1 inch for wrapping underneath cap. Hot-glue batting edges under cap and into hollowed-out center. Using the tapestry needle, poke a hole through batting and into top of half-ball.



Using a sewing needle and doubled sewing thread, stitch a gathering stitch ¼ inch inside edge of velvet circle. Center velvet circle on top of mushroom cap; pull the thread tightly to gather circle underneath cap. Stitch through gathers a few at a time, pulling thread a little tighter each time until opening in center is closed; tie off.

Knot ends of hanger cord, forming a loop. Thread loop through tapestry needle and push needle into half-ball from underneath, finding the previously made hole, and pull loop through velvet. The knot should catch on inside of cap. Stitch seed beads randomly onto velvet cap.

MAKE THE MUSHROOM STEM

Spread crafts glue on one side of batting strip. Starting ½ inch from one end of the paper-wrapped wire, wrap batting tightly around wire, angling downward. When wraps reach end of wire, wrap back up wire over previous wraps, and then back down again. Leave the ½-inch end of paper-wrapped wire uncovered. Any extra batting should stay at bottom of wire.

Roll batting-covered wire on a flat surface to flatten and smooth batting edges. Stitch one short edge of silk fabric rectangle to batting, leaving wire end uncovered. Wrap silk fabric tightly around stem; turn raw short edge under and stitch tightly to stem. Fold bottom edges of silk fabric under and stitch to close.

Hot-glue lace around stem, just below wire end. Place a generous dab of hot glue on wire end of stem and push the wire into bottom of mushroom cap; hold until glue is set.

Roll a little Spanish moss in your hands; press a finger into it to form a cup shape. Hot-glue moss to bottom of stem.

TREE LINES

shown on *page 89*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Fusible web
- ☐ Red-and-cream ticking fabric: ⅓ yard and 2—13×17-inch rectangles
- ☐ Cream canvas: 13×27-inch rectangle
- ☐ Sewing thread: cream
- ☐ 14×28-inch pillow form

Measurements include ½-inch seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

PREPARE THE APPLIQUÉS

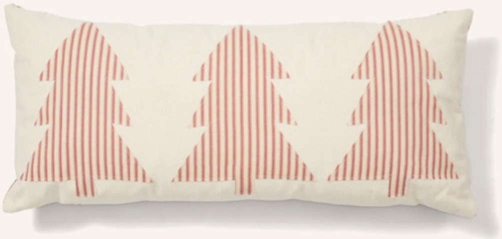
Trace tree pattern in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over pattern. Use a pencil to trace pattern three times. Cut out fusible-web shapes roughly ¼ inch outside traced lines. Following manufacturer's instructions, press fusible-web trees onto ⅓ yard of red-and-cream ticking fabric; let cool.

Cut out shapes on drawn lines. Peel off paper backings. Referring to photo, *right,* arrange trees on cream canvas rectangle. Fuse in place following manufacturer's instructions to make pillow top.

SEW THE PILLOW

Using cream sewing thread, topstitch ⅛ inch inside the edges of each fused tree on pillow top.

Turn under one short edge of each 13×17-inch ticking fabric rectangle ½ inch; press. Turn under same edges ½ inch again and stitch close to each folded edge using cream thread.



Overlap hemmed edges of rectangles 5 inches to make a 13×27-inch rectangle. Baste overlapped edges to make a pillow back. Layer pillow top and pillow back with right sides together. Stitch together outside edges. Remove basting; turn right side out.

Insert pillow form through back opening of pillow cover.

TOP GLOW

shown on *page 87*

MATERIALS

- ☐ 9×12-inch sheet of felt: ivory
- ☐ 10-inch square of lightweight muslin
- ☐ Water-soluble marking pen
- ☐ 10-inch square of fusible interfacing
- ☐ 14-inch embroidery hoop
- ☐ Embroidery floss: light yellow, dark yellow, metallic gold, ivory
- ☐ Embroidery needle
- ☐ Sewing thread: ivory

PREPARE THE FABRIC

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace pocket onto ivory felt; cut out. Trace star pattern onto muslin using a water-soluble marking pen.

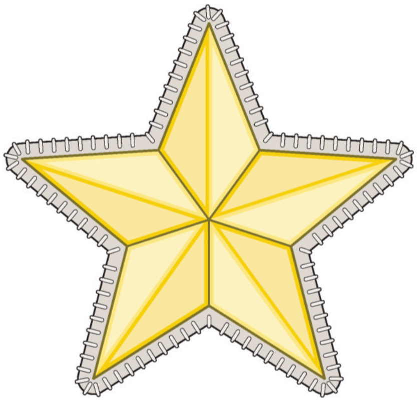
Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing to the back of the lightweight muslin. Insert fused fabric into an embroidery hoop.

EMBROIDER THE DESIGN

Go to *page 94* to see stitch diagrams. Referring to the embroidery diagram and color key, *below,* stitch the design using six strands of floss.

FINISH THE STAR

Remove fabric from hoop. Cut out the embroidered star about ⅜ inch outside the edges. Trace the embroidered star cutout onto ivory felt; cut out.



TOP GLOW
EMBROIDERY DIAGRAM

● Light yellow
● Dark yellow
● Gold
○ Ivory

☐ Satin Stitch
— Backstitch
▯▯ Whipstitch

STAR POWER

shown on *page 87*

MATERIALS

- ☐ Lightweight cardboard
- ☐ Crafts knife and straightedge
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Decoupage medium: matte
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Acrylic paint: white
- ☐ Patterned tissue paper
- ☐ Metal leaf adhesive
- ☐ Metal leaf sheets: gold
- ☐ Soft paintbrush
- ☐ Metal leaf sealant
- ☐ Metallic cord or embroidery floss: gold

PREPARE THE PIECES

Trace patterns in *Pattern Pack* onto white paper; cut out. Trace patterns onto cardboard; cut out with a crafts knife.

Referring to the lines on the star pattern, on just one cardboard star cutout, use a crafts knife and straightedge to lightly score from an outer point to the opposite outer point; slightly crease each scored line. Flip star over and score from an inner point to opposite inner point, crease each score line.

Hot-glue two cardboard circles together; let dry. Center the glued circles between the two cut stars, placing the star with the scored lines on top. Hot-glue points of stars together; let dry.

Shape base into a tube, overlapping the sides as indicated on the pattern; hot-glue.

PAPIER-MÂCHÉ THE PIECES

To create the papier-mâché-like texture, brush decoupage medium onto star front; press paper towels onto wet medium. Wrap excess around backside of star or trim to fit. Brush decoupage medium over paper towels on star. Repeat this process on base section; let dry.

Paint front and back of the star and the base with white; let dry.

Brush decoupage medium onto front and back of star; press tissue paper onto wet medium. Trim around star edges. Brush decoupage medium over top of tissue paper on front and back of star; let dry.

DECORATE THE TOPPER

Draw light pencil lines from each point to the opposite point on the star; these will serve as guides for applying metal leaf adhesive.

Following manufacturer's instructions, apply metal leaf adhesive to alternating sections on the star front; let dry as indicated or until slightly tacky.

Cut a sheet of gold metal leaf into manageable pieces and apply the pieces to an adhesive section. Use a soft paintbrush to gently smooth and remove any excess leafing. Repeat on each adhesive section.

Referring to manufacturer's instructions, brush the gold metal leaf with metal leaf sealant or decoupage medium; let dry.

Using hot glue, adhere lengths of gold metallic cord or embroidery floss from each star point to opposite star point; trim ends and let dry.

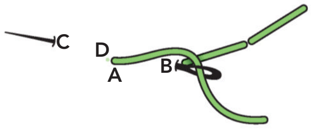
ADD THE BASE

Hot-glue narrow end of base to the back of star; hold in place until dry. Insert wide tube end onto top of tree.

TECHNIQUES

Use these diagrams and instructions to complete projects.

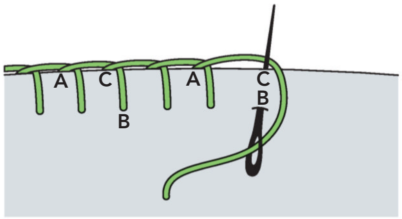
ILLUSTRATORS: LIZ GORDON AND ANN MACKEY WEISS



BACKSTITCH DIAGRAM

BACKSTITCH

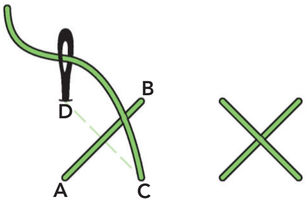
Pull the needle up at A. Insert needle back into fabric at B and bring it up at C. Push it down again at D, leaving no gap between stitches. Continue in the same manner.



BLANKET STITCH DIAGRAM

BLANKET STITCH

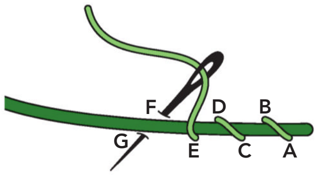
Pull the needle up at A, form a reverse L shape with the floss, and hold the angle of the L shape in place with your thumb. Insert needle into the fabric at B and come up at C to secure the stitch. Continue in the same manner.



CROSS-STITCH DIAGRAM

CROSS-STITCH

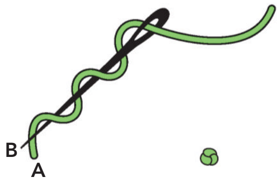
Pull the needle up at A. Insert needle back into fabric at B and bring it up at C. Push needle down again at D. Continue in the same manner to make as many cross-stitches as needed.



COUCHING STITCH DIAGRAM

COUCHING STITCH

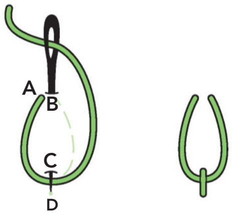
Bring the needle up at A, right next to (but not through) whatever you are couching, such as a narrow appliqué piece or a length of yarn. On opposite side of appliqué piece or yarn, insert needle at B. Continue in the same manner, with stitches ⅛ inch to ¼ inch apart, back and forth over appliqué piece or yarn.



FRENCH KNOT DIAGRAM

FRENCH KNOT

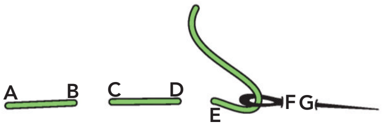
Bring the needle up through fabric at A, the point where knot is desired. Wrap floss around needle twice without twisting it. Insert tip of needle into fabric at B, 1⁄16 inch from A. Gently push wraps down needle to meet fabric. Pull needle and trailing floss through fabric slowly and smoothly.



LAZY DAISY STITCH DIAGRAM

LAZY DAISY STITCH

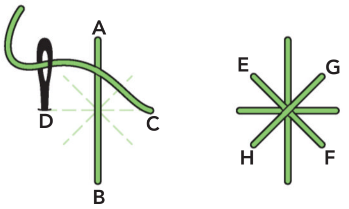
Bring the needle up at A and form a loop of thread on fabric surface. Holding loop in place, insert needle back into fabric at B, about 1⁄16 inch from A. Bring needle tip out at C and cross it over trailing floss, keeping floss as flat as possible. Gently pull needle and trailing floss until loop lies flat against fabric. Push needle through to back at D to secure the stitch.



RUNNING STITCH DIAGRAM

RUNNING STITCH

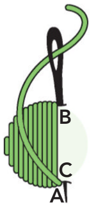
Bring the needle up at A and insert it into fabric at B. Pull needle up again at C and insert it back into fabric at D. Continue in the same manner, loading several stitches on needle at a time.



STAR STITCH DIAGRAM

STAR STITCH

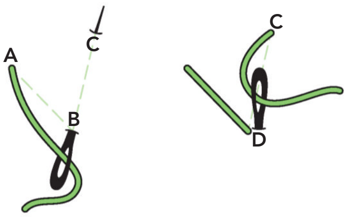
Pull the needle up at A, insert it into the fabric at B, and bring it up again at C. Insert needle at D to complete a cross-stitch. Pull needle up at E and insert it into the fabric at F. Pull needle up at G and insert it into the fabric at H to complete a smaller cross-stitch that crosses over the first cross-stitch.



SATIN STITCH DIAGRAM

SATIN STITCH

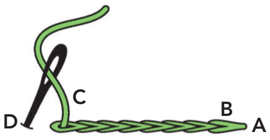
Fill in the design area with straight stitches, stitching from edge to edge and placing the stitches side by side.



STRAIGHT STITCH DIAGRAM

STRAIGHT STITCH

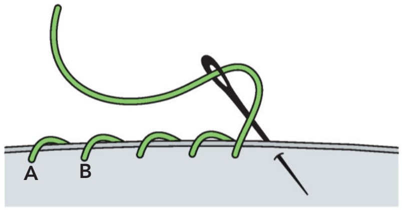
Pull the needle up at A. Insert needle back into the fabric at B. Continue in the same manner.



SPLIT STITCH DIAGRAM

SPLIT STITCH

Pull the needle up at A, make a short straight stitch, and push needle back into fabric at B. Pull needle up at C, piercing through center of first straight stitch, then make a straight stitch, and go back into fabric at D. Continue in the same manner.

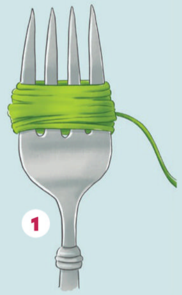


WHIPSTITCH DIAGRAM

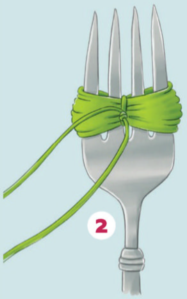
WHIPSTITCH

Bring the needle up at A; push it down at B on the background fabric. Continue in the same manner around the entire shape.

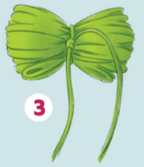
Make a Pom-Pom



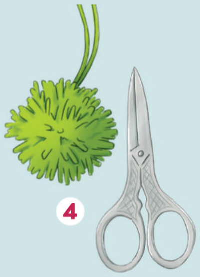
Wrap yarn many times around a fork, cardboard piece, book, or other object.



Tie the entire bundle tightly in the center; you may have to remove the bundle first.



Cut the yarn loops at both ends of the bundle, keeping the tails of the center tie long.



Fluff the loose yarn ends into a ball, and trim to desired length.

Various sizes of pom-pom makers are available in crafts stores or online.

cover journey

Digging through our archives, we uncovered a treasure trove of vintage projects. Enjoy our favorite past covers!

1970s

The creation and publication of *Holiday Crafts* began. About half of each issue was printed in black and white; all diagrams and patterns were created from hand-drawn artwork.

1980s

The magazine originally showcased projects for every season and every reason. Covers from this era proved it by featuring interesting combinations of crafts found in the issue.

1990s

This decade saw the beginning of the "pattern packet"—a large folded insert in each issue. It contains all the patterns to help readers in their crafting.

2000s

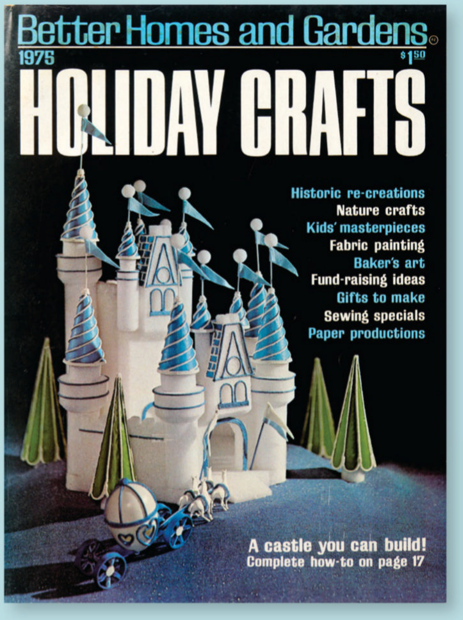
Because of reader demand at the turn of the new millennium, *Holiday Crafts* began offering all Christmas content (with a bonus touch of fall).

2010s

The pillow-on-the-cover era was under way. The popularity of the holiday pillow led to variations on the cover eight years in a row.

present

Holiday Crafts continues as a leader in the latest crafting trends while providing in-depth instructions and information.


Better Homes and Gardens
1975
$1.50
HOLIDAY CRAFTS
Historic re-creations
Nature crafts
Kids' masterpieces
Fabric painting
Baker's art
Fund-raising ideas
Gifts to make
Sewing specials
Paper productions
A castle you can build!
Complete how-to on page 17

1975

A castle and carriage fit for Cinderella are constructed entirely out of plastic foam.

1983

A fabric-stuffed family of mice decked in their finest calico hold a get-together.

Better Homes and Gardens Creative Ideas
Holiday Crafts
1983
$2.95
GIFTS FOR KIDS
Toys, games, sweaters, dolls, and animal pals
BEGINNER'S APPLIQUÉ
Plus bargello, basketry, and block printing
HEIRLOOM GIFTS
To crochet, cross-stitch, and quilt
Trims for the holiday season
10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
Bonus: Full-size patterns for these mouse dolls

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications
Holiday Crafts
1994
Make it Tonight!
Quick Ideas for Busy Crafters
A Full Year of CRAFTING FUN
78 Projects
Quilts • Cross-stitch • Dolls
Kids' Crafts • Plastic Canvas

1994

A country angel and snowman gather with a clothespin bunny and a garden-inspired figurine.

2005

Holly berry topiaries surround a hand-painted Santa candleholder.

Better Homes and Gardens Creative Collection
Holiday Crafts
2005
83 FESTIVE IDEAS TO SPARK YOUR CREATIVITY
Halloween
Thanksgiving
Christmas
SEASONAL FAVORITES
Santas
Snowmen
Stockings
and more
HO HO HO
quick gifts to make and share

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest
Special Section!
Holiday Crafts
86 Festive Ideas!
Ornaments, Wreaths, Stockings & More
PAGES 8–21
HALLOWEEN PROJECTS
QUICK GIFTS to Make and Share
2013
Start Now!
Easy Step-by-Step Instructions

2013

A felted pillow features this snowman with his bluebird friend.

Better Homes & Gardens® *Holiday Crafts®* (ISSN 0278-7490), 2025, *Holiday Crafts* is published annually in September by Meredith Operations Corp., 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023. Better Homes & Gardens is a registered trademark in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Better Homes & Gardens marca registrada en México.
© Meredith Operations Corp. 2025. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

ADVERTISEMENT

In Love With Better Homes & Gardens?

Tell Us All About It!

Photographer: Kelsey Hansen

We hope you enjoyed this special *Better Homes & Gardens* holiday issue. We'd love to hear your thoughts about what you read and saw in this issue, as well as learn a little about you.

AS A SPECIAL THANK YOU, WE ARE OFFERING A CHANCE TO WIN A $10,000 CASH PRIZE IN OUR ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES!

Survey participation is not necessary to enter or win our sweepstakes, but we do hope you will share your opinions.

GET STARTED

by simply holding your phone's camera up to the code

OR VISIT

dotdashmeredith.com/HolidaySurvey

No Purchase Necessary. 2025 Sweepstakes ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on 9/30/25. 2026 Sweepstakes begins at 12:00 a.m. ET on 10/1/25 & ends at 11:59 p.m. ET 9/30/26. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. & D.C., 18+. Void where prohibited. Subject to full Official Rules at https://dotdashmeredith.com/readersweepstakesrules. Sponsored by Dotdash Media Inc.

Punch Needle

8816

Just "punch" the yarn threaded needle into your fabric and follow your pattern. Suitable for medium to bulky weight yarn.

Punch Needle Hoop

8817

A height adjustable hoop that keeps fabric securely in place for punch needle work.

Scissors

Patchwork Scissors (Mini)

493 / CW

The sharp and fine tip makes detailed work pleasant.

100th Anniversary | Clover

Celebrating a century of creativity.
Continuing to inspire handmade happiness for the world.

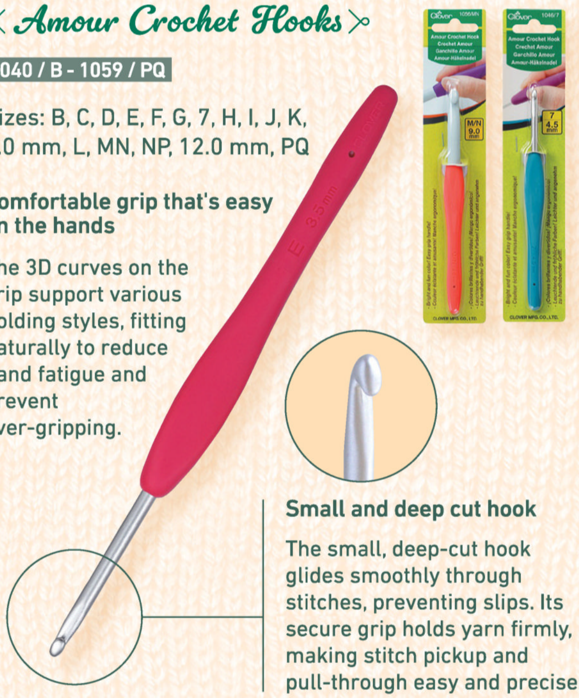
Amour Crochet Hooks

1040 / B - 1059 / PQ

Sizes: B, C, D, E, F, G, 7, H, I, J, K, 7.0 mm, L, MN, NP, 12.0 mm, PQ

Comfortable grip that's easy on the hands

The 3D curves on the grip support various holding styles, fitting naturally to reduce hand fatigue and prevent over-gripping.



Small and deep cut hook

The small, deep-cut hook glides smoothly through stitches, preventing slips. Its secure grip holds yarn firmly, making stitch pickup and pull-through easy and precise.

Soft Touch Crochet Hooks

1002 / B - 1010 / J

Sizes: B, C, D, E, F, G, 7, H, I, J

Light and easy-to-grip handle

The ergonomic, lightweight handle reduces hand strain with its ideal width and balanced design, naturally centering toward the hook for a comfortable, stable grip.

Comfortable and soft-touch grip

The grip is flat and has a large contact point for the thumb, so you can crochet for hours with less stress and fatigue.

Optimal shape for smooth crocheting

The needle point is ideally shaped for easy crocheting and the yarn smoothly slide over the metal shanks.

NEW Darning Yarn

Perfect for repairs, embroidery, steel crochet, and you can adjust thickness easily!

Darning yarn
Fil à repriser
Hilo de zurcir
Stopfgarn

Denim **7965**

Brown **7955**

Available in 16 colors!

Darning Needles

Darning Needle Set

Darning needle sets with case to select according to use.

339

*Other darning needles are also available.

Jumbo **340**

Tapestry **3121**

Lace **3168**

Pom-Pom Markers

Beautiful pom-poms made easy. The measuring scale on the arch makes it easy to create multi-colored pom-poms.

3127 Extra Small (3/4", 1")
3124 Small (1 3/8", 1 5/8")
3126 Large (2 1/2", 3 3/8")
3128 Extra Large (4 1/2")
3129 Set (1 3/8", 1 5/8", 2 1/2", 3 3/8")

CLOVER MFG. CO., LTD. Japan CLOVER NEEDLECRAFT, INC.
www.clover-usa.com